



One Stop Shop for Safety: How Seneca High School Created a Unified Emergency Response with CrisisGo

Phone & SIS Integration

A Campus Spread Out and a Staff Not Fully Connected

Seneca High School District 160, a single-campus high school in Seneca, Illinois, serves roughly 460 students. The school sits on a spread-out rural campus with one main building and additional facilities for programs like agriculture, industrial arts, and athletics. While this setup supports diverse learning, it also posed a key challenge: campus-wide communication.

"When I came on here," said Ken Sangston, the district's School Resource Officer and Administrator of Safety Services, "everyone had the authority to report emergencies directly, but there wasn't a unified way to do it. Not everyone was on the same page."

The district needed more than just authority—it needed clarity, consistency, and real-time connectivity. That's where CrisisGo came in.

Customer Profile



Seneca High School District 160 serves the Seneca, Illinois community with a mission to prepare and support all students for post-high school success through a challenging and engaging educational program. The district emphasizes student achievement, co-curricular opportunities, and technology-enriched learning while fostering Irish Pride and a supportive, respectful culture. With core values rooted in progressiveness, accountability, and collaboration, Seneca High is committed to student growth, community trust, and continuous improvement.

Industry: K9-12

Region: Seneca, Illinois

Total Buildings: 1

Total Students: 460

Customer Since: March, 2024

Unified Communications That Just Work

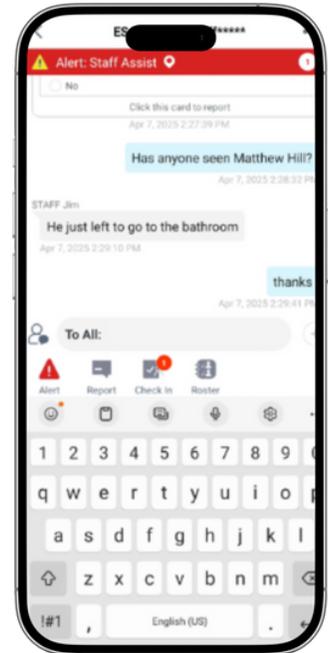
For Seneca, the simple but powerful features of CrisisGo made an immediate difference.

"With CrisisGo, especially that chat option, everybody's on the same field, everybody sees what's going on. That's gold."

– Ken Sangston

The real-time chat functionality created a shared space for critical updates, reducing confusion and response time during both drills and actual incidents. Ken likened it to a "one-stop shop"—an application that provided everything the staff needed in an emergency, accessible directly from their phones.

Every faculty and staff member—from the superintendent to cafeteria workers—has the app. It's not optional. "It comes from the top down. One of our pillars at Seneca is safety. Once you build a culture around that, adoption follows," Ken explained.



Seamless Emergency Systems: Integration with Rival5

One of the most impressive elements of Seneca's setup is how CrisisGo integrates with the school's Rival5 phone system.

"We didn't reinvent the wheel. We saw something we liked and CrisisGo integrated perfectly."

– Ken Sangston

Here's what happens during an emergency:

- A teacher taps the CrisisGo app and confirms an emergency.
- The integration automatically triggers the Rival5 phone system.
- Phones across the building, PA systems, and visual alerts (like blue lights in noisy rooms) are activated.
- CrisisGo places a call to 911 with a pre-recorded message.
- The entire emergency protocol is launched in seconds—without confusion or delay.

This level of integration means fewer delays, fewer assumptions, and a dramatically reduced margin for error. "The 911 center knows we use CrisisGo. Everything kicks in automatically once it's activated," Ken emphasized.



The Power of Precision: Integration with PowerSchool SIS and Roster Feature

Another standout feature for Seneca is CrisisGo’s integration with PowerSchool’s Student Information System (SIS).

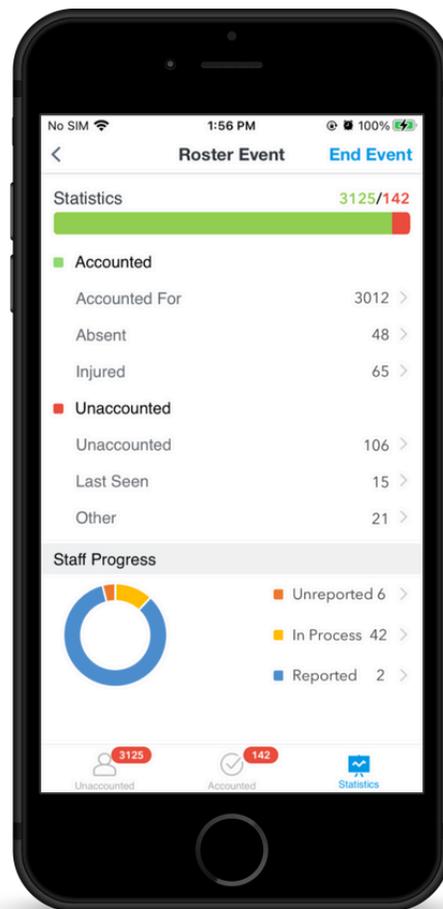
"Teachers open the app, and they can take attendance right there. It's always real-time. It updates automatically with PowerSchool."

– Ken Sangston

This capability goes far beyond convenience. During drills or emergencies, teachers can:

- Quickly open rosters synced with PowerSchool.
- Take real-time attendance—even noting students absent due to illness.
- Identify missing students and compare them with daily absentee lists.
- Instantly send updates to administration and first responders.

This removes the need for printed rosters, reduces human error, and accelerates accountability during emergencies. "Without it, you're lugging around paper bags with semester rosters. With it, it's real-time and accurate every time," Ken said.



Tailored Alerts for Diverse Situations

Seneca uses CrisisGo in highly nuanced ways. Teachers and aides in their Life Skills program, for instance, rely on custom alerts for behavioral incidents.

Similarly, if a student has an injury on the football field, the PE teacher can trigger a medical emergency alert that instantly notifies only the athletic trainer, nurse, and appropriate administrators. This tailored alert system keeps communications precise and effective.

"Those messages don't go to the whole school. They're customized—just the SRO, nurse, and admins. It doesn't disrupt the whole building."

Ken Sangston

School Resource Officer and Administrator of Safety Services
Seneca High School District 160

A Real-World Test That Proved It All

Though Seneca hasn't experienced a major real-life emergency, the system was put to the test during a construction accident. While wiring a new gymnasium, contractors accidentally triggered the school's lockdown system.

"The chat lit up instantly—everyone responded, checked in, and we confirmed it was a false alarm. It worked perfectly."

– Ken Sangston

Rather than chaos, the school experienced a drill-like scenario with immediate, clear communication. "That was our aha moment. Everything functioned just as it should." Ken said.

Implementation and Long-Term Support

Getting started with CrisisGo was seamless. After a trial period and an all-staff training, implementation was smooth.

"Six years in, and we still get emails, check-ins, and training updates from our rep. It's not a one-and-done relationship."

– Ken Sangston

The district conducts regular in-service trainings and refreshers, with a new full staff training scheduled this October. The philosophy: safety is dynamic, and so is CrisisGo.

Building a Culture of Safety

Ultimately, what makes CrisisGo successful at Seneca is its alignment with a deeper cultural commitment to safety.

"We call it the Seneca Way. Safety is one of our pillars. CrisisGo fits right into that."

– Ken Sangston

There's no resistance, no hesitation. Everyone's bought in—because everyone understands that their safety tools are only as effective as their adoption.

Final Advice to Other Districts

"There are a million products out there. This one works. It's practical, it's easy, and in an emergency, information is everything."

– Ken Sangston

For any district seeking not just a tool, but a complete system that brings people together, streamlines emergency response, and adapts to every campus' unique needs—CrisisGo is more than a product. It's a partner.

