



## Empowered Response, Unified Safety

How Stephenville ISD Transformed Reunification with CrisisGo

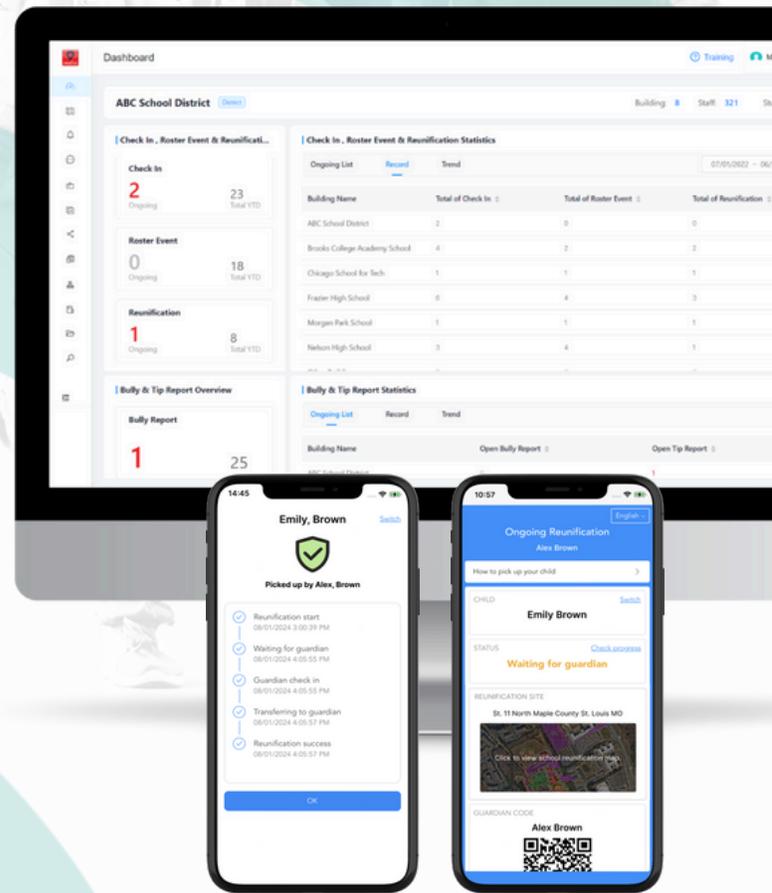


Stephenville ISD  
Stephenville, TX  
Number of Students: 3,571

### Background

Nestled just over an hour southwest of Fort Worth, the 3,500-student Stephenville Independent School District (ISD) serves its Texas community with a steadfast commitment to safety. At the forefront of this effort is Brad Burluson, the district's Director of Safety and Security. With a background as a junior high principal and an active role in the Army National Guard, Brad brings both firsthand school leadership experience and tactical awareness to his position. Although CrisisGo was implemented while he was deployed, upon returning, Brad quickly collaborated with John Briese, the Executive Director of Technology, to steward the program and integrate it deeper into the district's operations.

**"Once I saw what it [CrisisGo] could do, especially with reunification and how it handled substitutes, I knew we had something truly effective." - Brad Burluson**



# The Struggle with Communication and Accountability

Before CrisisGo, Stephenville ISD navigated emergencies and drills with piecemeal tools. Public address systems and mass texts through services like Remind were the norm—but they were unreliable.

“If you don’t hear the phone go off, or you’re in a part of the building with poor reception, you miss the message,” Brad explained. “And you’re only able to push out so much information. It wasn’t a complete package.”

Accountability during drills or actual emergencies also remained a stubborn challenge. Educators struggled to know where everyone was—and more importantly—whether they were safe. As drills became more sophisticated and real events more complex, it became clear the district needed something better.

**“Every time we ran a drill, we knew—there’s got to be something else out there. Somebody needs to develop this.”**

## The Game Changer: Reunification Manager

Texas’ mandate for silent panic alert technologies was a turning point for many districts. For Stephenville, it became the spark that led to CrisisGo’s adoption. But it was the platform’s Reunification Manager that truly changed the game.

Years before, while Brad was principal of the junior high, the district had faced a full-campus reunification. “Keeping accountability through that process and coordinating different stages was incredibly difficult,” he said. “Now, with CrisisGo, I get relief knowing we can track everything—from a high level down to each individual student.”

**“The reunification piece, to me, was a game changer. It gives us confidence in the most stressful situations.”**

Today, all six campuses in the district have been trained on the reunification process using CrisisGo, and that training is paying off. What was once chaotic is now clear, coordinated, and auditable.



## A Standout Feature: True Inclusion for Substitutes

To the team that initially evaluated CrisisGo, one feature immediately stood out: CrisisGo's treatment of substitutes.

**"Really, it was the only viable solution. It wasn't just a band-aid or patch."**

Substitute teachers are now fully included in the safety process. They go through CrisisGo orientation and have access to the same tools and alerts as permanent staff.

"They're not semi-included—they're fully empowered," Brad emphasized. "They have the full capability of anyone on campus."

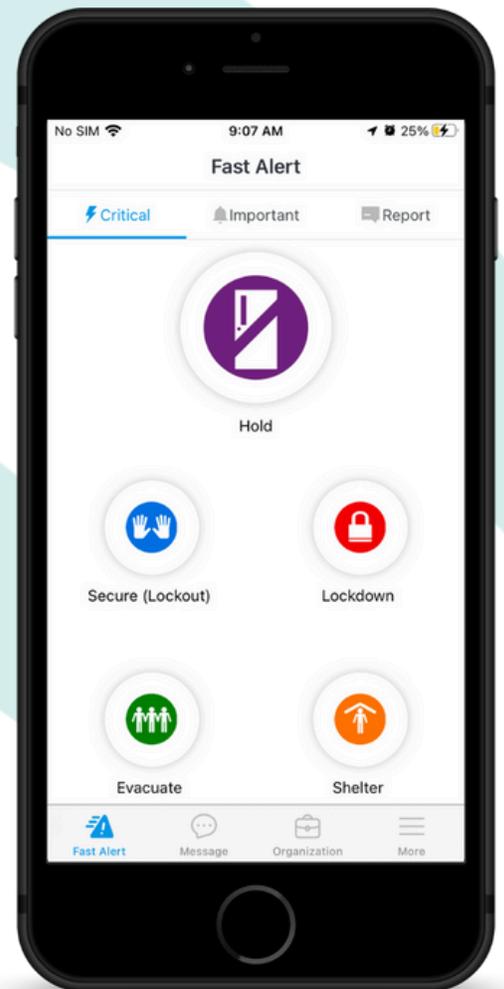
## Frontline Empowerment: Giving Staff the Tools to Act

CrisisGo isn't just for administrators—it's a frontline tool used by every staff member. In training sessions, Brad makes it clear: CrisisGo is about enabling people to act.

**"We used to say 'see something, say something.' Now it's 'see something, say something, do something.'"**

Whether on the playground or in the auditorium, staff can now initiate a campus-wide alert instantly. The system escalates notifications across the district, automatically notifying key personnel that will respond to the emergency.

**"It shortens the response time—not just by seconds, but minutes," Brad said. "That can save lives."**



CRISISGO

## Usability, Customization, and Rapid Innovation

Brad praised the app's intuitive interface and how it mirrors modern smartphone iconography. But what impressed him most was the backend customization. "We've been able to tailor it to our protocols, reorganize icons, and create a system that's truly intuitive for our team," he said.

One feature Brad suggested was the ability to log "other" approved guardians for reunification—like grandparents or siblings. "I made the suggestion, and two days later the feature was live," he said. "That kind of responsiveness makes you feel like part of the solution."

**"When I say, 'I wish it would,' CrisisGo says, 'Why can't it?'"**

## Shaping a Safer Culture Through Consistency

Since implementing CrisisGo, the district has adopted it as part of daily operations. It's used in every fire drill and lockdown drill. "It's just become what we do," Brad explained. "It's no longer new—it's part of our culture."

Training has led to remarkable improvements in accountability. Elementary campuses now report zero unaccounted students during drills, and secondary campuses are nearly there. "It's steady progress," Brad said. "We're growing in comfort and competency across the board."

## Looking Ahead: Integration and a Common Operating Picture

Brad is eager for what's next. The district is exploring deeper integrations—like door locks and camera systems—to create a seamless command center view in a crisis.

**"As we tie these systems together, we remove failure points. Automation helps eliminate those small but critical human errors that can cause a domino effect," he said.**

CrisisGo, he believes, is the foundation for that future.



CRISIS GO

## Advice to Other Districts: Start with the Vision

For those still exploring safety platforms, Brad's advice is clear:

**"Don't stop at compliance. Define what kind of environment you want to create. Know your weak points. Then find real solutions—not just features."**

In Stephenville ISD, substitutes aren't afterthoughts. Reunification is no longer a scramble. And staff don't just wait for direction—they act. CrisisGo didn't just meet a mandate. It became the catalyst for a safer, more confident district.

**"We're always looking to refine and improve, but with CrisisGo, we're not just reacting anymore. We're leading."**



CRISIS GO