CatapultEMS™
Emergency Management System

CASE STUDY

Galena Park Independent School District Mobilized Rapid Emergency Communication and Seamless Student Accountability with CatapultEMS

How a Safety-First District Found the Right Emergency Management Solution

After the Uvalde school shooting, Brian Allen remembers being grateful that his school district, Galena Park Independent School District (ISD), was proactive instead of reactive when it came to safety. Following the shooting, Texas mandated that every public school in the state have an armed security officer on the premises, but Allen's district was ahead of the curve and already had the assigned officers in place.

Allen, Galena Park ISD's Senior Director for Security and Emergency Management who worked for the district for over 30 years, was passionate about establishing a culture of safety on his campuses. That's why he decided to test out an emergency management system that could help streamline communication during threatening incidents.

However, after rolling out a pilot program at two campuses, Allen quickly realized that the system was riddled with technical errors and issues that prevented effective emergency communication and management.

Fortunately, **_Allen made the switch to CatapultEMS and experienced a profound_** difference. Now 24 Galena Park ISD campuses and two additional sites are equipped with tools and support that allow for more fluid communication and expedited action when emergencies of other incidents occur.

> " *I gave CatapultEMS an opportunity and it's been a dynamic breath of fresh air because everything that I wanted the other company to do, they are doing it and 10 times over.*"

👤 **Brian Allen**
Senior Director for Security & Emergency Management, Galena Park Independent School District

The District's Needs: A More Reliable Solution to Emergency Communication and Management

1. A system that enables immediate emergency communication to all the right parties

As a safety leader for a forward-thinking school district, Allen knew traditional lines of communication wouldn't cut it for alerting staff, district leaders, and law enforcement of an emergency. Phone calls and emails took too long and didn't ensure that all the right parties would be informed right away. In Allen's search for an emergency communication and management solution for Galena Park ISD, he knew it had to be fast, and it had to be seamless.

2. A way for teachers and staff to easily account for students during a threatening incident

According to Allen, his teachers and staff needed a quick and error-free way to record the presence and safety of students when an emergency or threatening incident occurred. However, with the previous emergency management platform tested by the district, there were frequent technical difficulties that made it challenging to conduct proper student accountability.

3. Intuitive technology that creates a user-friendly experience for teachers and staff

As a former teacher, Allen knew the right emergency management solution had to be easy for his teachers and staff to use. If the system was intuitive and hassle-free, teachers would be more likely to utilize the emergency management system as intended, which was important for supporting the safety of everyone on campus. With the previous provider, all Allen heard were complaints about technical issues from administrators and teachers who tested the system.

> *It was such a headache. The biggest issue [with the previous provider] was its ability to sync with our student rosters. If a teacher wanted to take attendance during a fire drill, he or she should be able to pull out their class roster. It never worked."*
>
> **Brian Allen**
> *Senior Director for Security & Emergency Management, Galena Park Independent School District*

The Solution: Technology That Works and Helps Pave the Way for Improved Safety

1. Instantaneous alerts and two-way communication that keep staff and safety leaders agile

With CatapultEMS, Galena Park ISD is now able to spring into immediate action when an incident occurs, informing all necessary parties within seconds, opening direct lines of communication, and minimizing delays in threat resolution.

> *With a push of a button, it [CatapultEMS] alerts everyone that is on the site safety team for that campus. Plus any time an alert is activated, myself, my chief of police, the employees in my department that run our cameras, we all receive those alerts. It works instantaneously."*
>
> **Brian Allen**
> *Senior Director for Security & Emergency Management, Galena Park Independent School District*

2. A frictionless student accountability experience

According to Allen, all the technical glitches that prevented teachers and staff from properly accounting for students in their pilot program with the previous provider went away once the district switched to CatapultEMS

> *If by chance there's an emergency, I want the teachers to be able to pull up the app on their phone and account for all of their kids, and I didn't see that with the previous program. With CatapultEMS, it's automatic and it updates daily. So, if there are any students that withdraw or enroll, they'll appear in the teacher's roster the next day, and the same with teachers."*

Brian Allen
Senior Director for Security & Emergency Management, Galena Park Independent School District

3. Safety management tools that teachers and staff are comfortable using

To help ensure that Galena Park ISD teachers and staff are prepared in the event of a real emergency, Allen said he requires them to use CatapultEMS in their monthly fire drills. And in more comprehensive safety training, he creates simulation exercises that incorporate use of the mobile app. He even created a scavenger hunt that requires trainees to use the platform to pull up emergency phone numbers.

According to Allen, CatapultEMS' reliability and easy-to-use interface combined with regular practice keep the district's teachers and staff comfortable using the technology, which is helpful for maximizing campus safety.

CatapultEMS in Action at Galena Park ISD

Allen said multiple campuses within the district have already seen the value of CatapultEMS in real-life incidents requiring safety alerts.

In one situation, the platform allowed school administrators at an elementary school to quickly put the campus in "secure mode" and delay the dismissal of students in order to avoid a high-speed chase that ended right across the street from the school. In another incident, a middle school was put into secure mode to keep students safe from an armed individual who was standing in the front yard of a nearby home.

CatapultEMS has even been helpful for enabling quick response to scenarios such as power outages. According to Allen, the platform has been a "godsend" for the district.
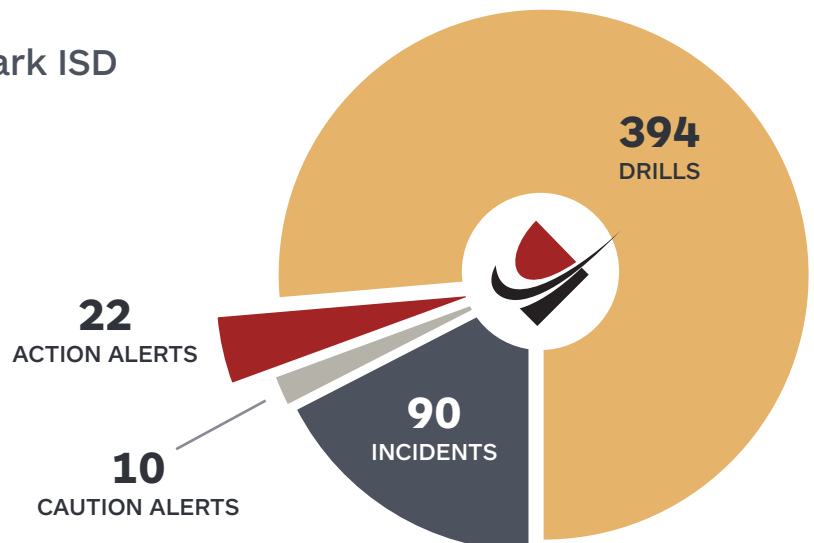
CatapultEMS Usage by Galena Park ISD

(Academic Year 2023-2024)

516
Emergency Response Events with CatapultEMS

▸ 90 Incidents
▸ 10 Caution Alerts
▸ 22 Action Alerts
▸ 394 Drills

394 DRILLS

22 ACTION ALERTS

10 CAUTION ALERTS

90 INCIDENTS

About CatapultEMS

CatapultEMS is a fully integrated emergency response and crisis management system designed for K-12 school districts. With features such as automatic emergency alerts, real-time student accountability, and child-guardian reunification assistance, CatapultEMS is a life-saving solution that allows school staff, administration, and law enforcement partners to work together to identify, address, communicate, and resolve threats faster.

CatapultEMS™

Emergency Management System

Find out how you can use CatapultEMS to keep your students and staff safe!

BOOK A DEMO

(855) 550-9006

www.catapultemergencymanagement.com