Verkada

Modernizing school emergency response: panic alerting, visibility, and coordination

Real-time emergency alerting, shared visibility, and coordinated response for schools
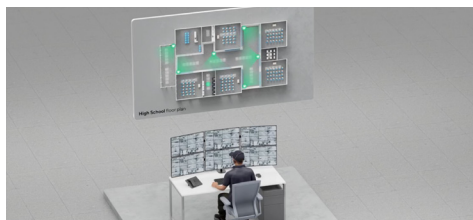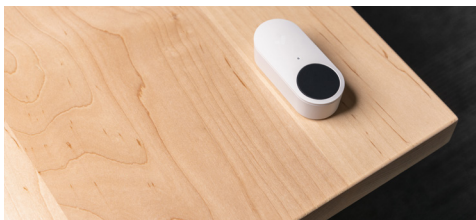
Overview

Following the adoption of Alyssa's Law in New Jersey — and related school safety initiatives focused on emergency response — many other states and jurisdictions have also enacted laws aimed at improving emergency response in K–12 environments. While statutory language and implementation details vary, these requirements generally aim to help schools initiate alerts quickly, share real-time context, and coordinate more effectively with first responders during critical incidents.

As a general principle, these laws emphasize speed, shared situational awareness, and coordinated response — rather than prescribing a single technical implementation.

Common functional themes across school safety panic alert laws*

Across jurisdictions, school safety panic alert requirements may emphasize the implementation and configuration of the following capabilities:

1. Rapid emergency alerting for school staff	2. Coordination with emergency responders	3. Access to school mapping and facility context
Laws commonly require or encourage systems that allow staff to quickly initiate an emergency alert during a critical incident. Functional expectations often include:	Many requirements are designed to improve coordination between schools and responding agencies by:	A recurring theme across school safety guidance is ensuring responders have usable facility information, which may include:
• Silent panic alarms • Simple, intuitive activation under stress • Availability across common staff workflows (e.g., mobile devices, desktops, or physical buttons) • Immediate notification to designated responders and stakeholders	• Supporting real-time information sharing during an incident • Enabling responders to receive timely, actionable context • Aligning with local emergency response procedures, where applicable	• Accurate, up-to-date floorplans • Clear identification of rooms, access points, and key areas • Secure access for authorized personnel during an emergency

*Note: Specific requirements, terminology, and implementation details, such as operational workflows and emergency escalation procedures vary by jurisdiction. Schools should consult with legal counsel or local schools safety authorities for applicable local guidance.

How Verkada supports these core objectives

Verkada is a cloud-managed physical security platform that unifies emergency alerting, access control, video, and facility context in a single system—helping schools support faster, more coordinated response.

Emergency alerting and one-tap response

- Configure alerts from Verkada Command for events like person/vehicle detection, fence climbing, line crossing, loitering, door forced open, glass break, and panic button pressed
- Launch pre-configured response actions aligned to school protocols
- Notify designated stakeholders with relevant, real-time context

Why it matters
When seconds count, reducing friction at the moment of activation helps schools respond more consistently.

Lockdown and access control support

- Initiate lockdowns from Verkada Command, the Pass App, or panic buttons
- Define custom scenarios to control specific doors or buildings
- Enable controlled access for responders while securing other areas
- Support flexible deployment options to reduce installation complexity

Shared visibility for incident response

- Provide real-time visibility using video and digital floorplans
- Share secure access to authorized responders during an incident
- Reduce the need to switch between disconnected systems during an incident

School mapping and facility context

Many school safety frameworks emphasize that mapping data should be accurate, accessible, and usable during an emergency. Verkada can help districts centralize and manage facility context such as:

- Building floorplans and aerial views
- Labeled rooms, doors, stairwells, and hallways
- Exterior areas including parking lots and fields
- Locations of key safety resources (e.g., AEDs, trauma kits)

Information can be shared digitally, printed, or used interactively as part of response workflows.

Beyond alerting: strengthening overall emergency readiness

While panic alerting is often a starting point, schools benefit most when response workflows are unified end-to-end.

Accountability & post-incident support
- Run roll call or accountability reports during or after incidents
- Include visitors through integrated visitor management
- Support reunification and follow-up coordination

Incident management & documentation
- Convert alerts into tracked incidents
- Maintain timestamped audit trails for drills and reviews
- Build consolidated incident timelines for after-action analysis

Platform extensibility
- Incorporate non-native video sources where applicable
- Support secure sharing and monitoring workflows across systems

Security, privacy, and governance

- Role-based access controls and audit logs
- Privacy-sensitive video features
- Cloud-managed platform to reduce on-site complexity

Summary

School safety panic alert laws are ultimately about improving speed, coordination, and shared awareness during emergencies. Verkada supports these objectives with a unified platform that brings together alerting, access control, visibility, mapping, and accountability — helping schools modernize emergency response while aligning to their local requirements.

Important note: Laws and guidance related to Alyssa's Laws and school safety panic alerting vary by jurisdiction. Verkada provides hardware and a software platform that may be a component of a safety strategy; however, Verkada does not represent or warrant that its products or user configurations independently satisfy all applicable statutory requirements. Schools should consult legal counsel or local school safety authorities to assess applicable state and local requirements and determine appropriate compliance needs.