



# How DUSD Shifted to Tech-Driven Emergency Management & Built a Culture of Safety with Navigate360

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The Leader in Holistic Safety



Every school's top priority is educating students, but keeping them safe is a close second. That responsibility belongs to me, the Safety and Preparedness Supervisor for Douglas Unified School District (DUSD) in Cochise County. We are a rural school district encompassing 552 square miles in southeastern Arizona. I coordinate safety and emergency preparedness measures for eight elementary, middle, and high school campuses, ensuring nearly 4,000 students and 400 staff members are safe at all times.

But I can't be everywhere at once, and the lack of real-time information was a real stumbling block to safety.



## The Problem: We Moved Slower Than We Wanted

Ensuring safety is more complicated than it seems. Accounting for everyone during an emergency or a drill meant waiting for phone calls and engaging in countless back-and-forth conversations on the radio. We had 100% accountability for students but couldn't always get accurate counts for staff.

It took forever to get a comprehensive picture of a situation, and we lacked a centralized system to coordinate our emergency response across all our schools. We didn't have standardized data collection or analytics tools to gather information, so there was no way to know how well we did during a drill or definitive way to improve our performance.

Training was also a sticking point. I had to personally deliver ALICE Active Shooter Response Training to each of the district's 400+ staffers. I gave introductory and refresher courses to all full-time staff, and if someone went on leave, I delivered personalized training to their replacement. It was time-consuming and inefficient, and people inevitably fell through the cracks.

# The Solution: A New Option Empowered Staff

We needed a more cohesive emergency management system. Fortunately, we had a good place to start. DUSD had used Navigate360 for ALICE Training® for several years, so it made sense to explore their entire suite of K-12 solutions.

After learning more about Navigate360 Emergency Management (EM), we determined it was the best tool for staff to account for students and themselves. Broadening our emergency coverage would remove some of the weight from my shoulders. It would also empower everyone to take action quickly in a crisis and was the perfect complement to our existing ALICE Training®.

We moved forward with implementation, and introduced EM in phases:

- First, my team and I **dug into the platform** to fully understand its capabilities.
- Next, we **trained our administrators and principals**, so they were comfortable with it.
- Then, we started **training our administrative assistants** and front office staff so they could monitor attendance and account for people.
- Finally, we **trained teachers at each school**, showing them how to download and interact with the app.

People were initially intimidated, but once they had EM in front of them and understood how easy it was to use, they became more comfortable. We started using it for emergency drills, and it drastically improved our emergency response.

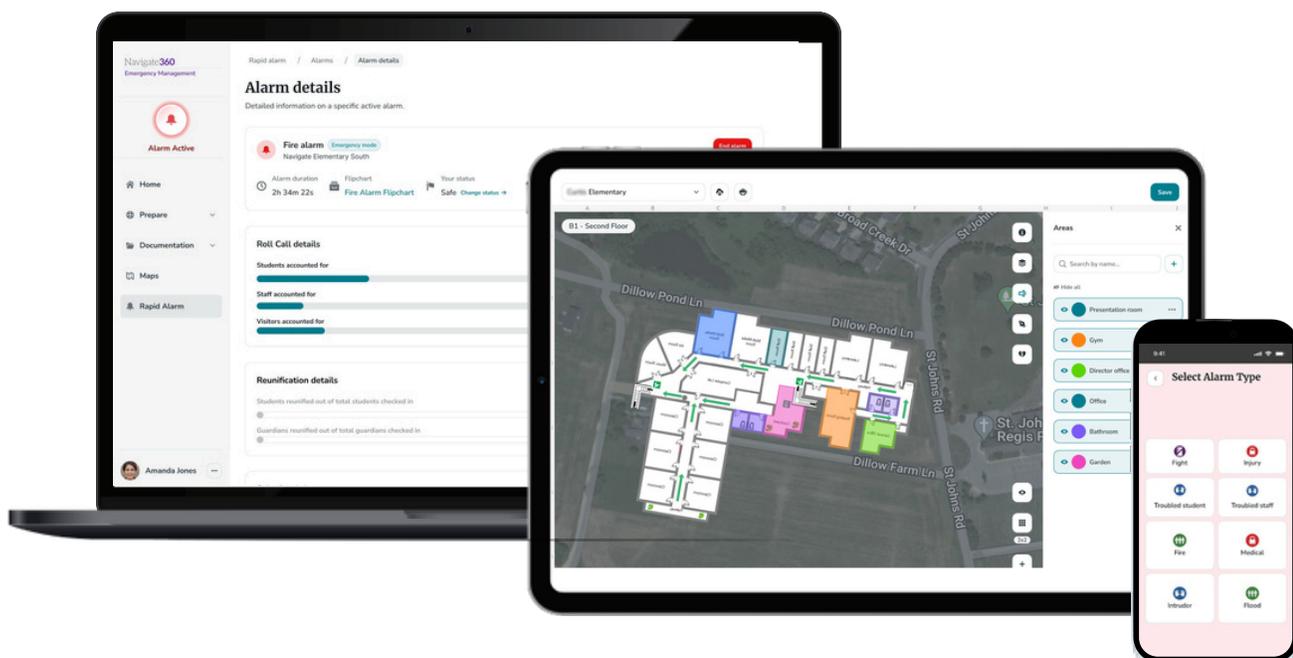


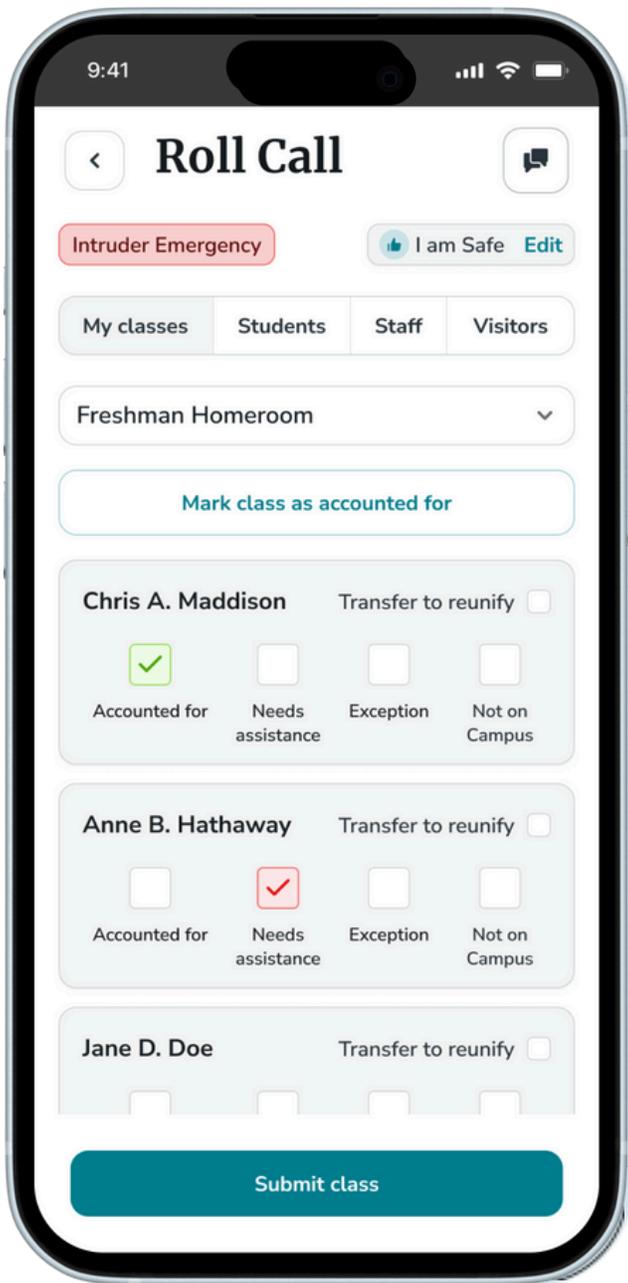
# Increasing Accountability Throughout the District

Navigate360 Emergency Management increased accountability. Everyone at our schools knows exactly what to do in an emergency. They can chat and share real-time updates, make decisions, adjust protocols on the fly, and ensure every department is in sync. We're working better as a team, and we've streamlined our drills and emergency response scenarios.

A further benefit of EM's chat feature is that it lets me be everywhere at once. It's easier to communicate with multiple parties and I can determine how a situation is unfolding without going onsite. I have full control of our emergency preparedness and response from a centralized location, which is useful when several schools schedule drills on the same day. I don't have to run around to supervise and monitor each of these exercises in person, which gives me more time to proactively address safety concerns.

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## A Confident, Safety-First Culture

Navigate360 helped DUSD build a culture of safety and continuous improvement. **Headcounts used to take an hour or more, but now we can account for students and staff in minutes and move on to the next steps in our emergency plans.** When we host drills, I can note how quickly staff responds, how long it takes for each school to account for students, and how soon normal operations resume. I'm proud to say they're performing admirably. There's less stress and confusion during drills and emergencies, and we are more confident because we have a solid EM framework in place.

We have also further optimized ALICE Training®. I still handle some hands-on, in-person training, but we've shifted much of the learning online, including onboarding and refresher courses. Using more digital capabilities means we can reach everyone quickly and efficiently, so they're always prepared.

Part of the credit for our success goes to Navigate360's excellent support team. We asked many questions, and their team was always just a phone call, email, or video chat away. With their help, we've fully embraced the platform to transform our safety and security protocols.

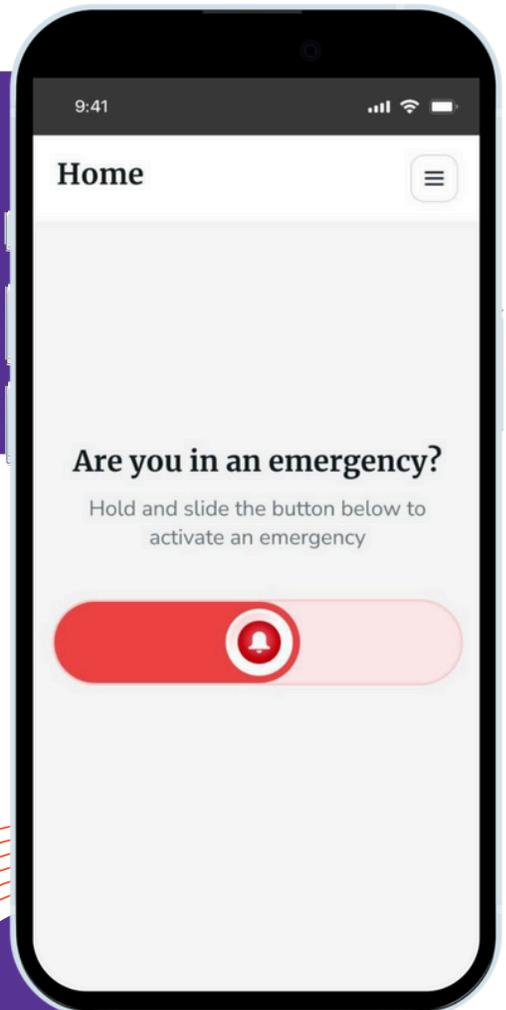
# From Planning to Response, We're Prepared for Any Emergency

“Navigate360 is really that simple: regardless of the emergency, the appropriate tools are right in the palm of your hand.”

DUSD's success is part of a larger initiative across Cochise County. The county secured Emergency Management in addition to Panic Buttons, also offered by Navigate360, for 27 school districts in Arizona, and now, Emergency Management alarms automatically call 9-1-1.

This feature made a big difference when we recently experienced a medical emergency at one of our schools. A teacher swiped on the app, alerting 9-1-1 and triggering the appropriate emergency plan. The staff immediately sprang into action, restricting student movement so an ambulance could safely enter the campus and paramedics could get to the classroom without navigating crowds of students in the hallways.

**We didn't waste time on the phone or leafing through binders with multiple emergency plans.** The student got help as quickly as they could. If there had been a fire or an active shooter situation, we'd have responded just as quickly because Navigator360 helps us track events and stay organized no matter where or when they happen. Navigate360 is really that simple: regardless of the emergency, the appropriate tools are right in the palm of your hand.



Emergencies are a part of life, but I don't ever want to go back to the days of waiting for phone calls and shouting commands into handheld radios. Navigate360 gives us the confidence that we are as prepared as possible for whatever happens in our halls.



## The Navigate360 Difference

A layered, holistic approach is the only viable option for schools who want to keep their campuses safe. Navigate360, the leading K-12 school safety partner, combines technology and training to ensure full accountability across the entire spectrum of student safety and well-being.

Our comprehensive Emergency Management solution provides an integrated, cloud-based platform that simplifies emergency planning, compliance, real-time response, and student-guardian reunification, ensuring full accountability and compliance across the entire spectrum of an emergency.

Navigate360 is the ideal solution for districts seeking a strategic, all-encompassing safety system. When it comes to breadth and depth, Navigate360 rises to the top with a comprehensive approach, covering more ground with advanced accountability, preparation tools, and recovery features.

Speak with a safety expert today to learn more about how Navigate360 can partner with your district.

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