

From a single aging repeater to **district-wide coverage and multiple talkgroups via LTE.**

How Cullman County Schools modernized communications for 150+ buses, 27 campuses, and the rural communities they serve — for a fraction of the cost of a traditional radio upgrade.

CUSTOMER	LOCATION	FLEET	SCHOOLS / STUDENTS	COVERAGE AREA
Cullman County Schools	Cullman, Alabama	150+ buses	27 / ~9,900	~735 sq mi, North Alabama

— The Challenge

For more than 15 years, Cullman County Schools ran its communications on a single aging conventional analog UHF repeater — paying monthly tower rent while every one of the district’s 150+ buses fought for air time on a single talk path.

Coverage faded the moment a bus crossed the county line for a field trip or a Friday-night ball game. Administrators had no way to stay connected when they stepped off campus. And the district was staring down a costly upgrade: a two-repeater digital LMR system for just four talk paths — plus replacing the majority of mobile radios. More tower rent. More FCC licensing. More single-purpose hardware.

For a rural district covering ~735 square miles of north-central Alabama, that math didn’t add up.

— The Solution

TangoTango delivered everything the LMR upgrade promised — plus a lot more — at a fraction of the cost. Cullman County replaced the legacy repeater with a fully managed LTE push-to-talk ecosystem:

- **Mobile LTE radios in every bus** with multi-carrier SIMs (AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon)
- **Desktop communicators** for transportation, maintenance staff, and front offices
- **Rugged LTE handhelds** for administrators and district personnel
- **District-wide PTT app** for all ~1,300 employees on iOS or Android
- **Real-time visual awareness** of bus locations via TangoTango’s live mapping

No towers. No FCC licenses. No fighting for air time. Just instant, encrypted push-to-talk anywhere there’s LTE or Wi-Fi.



Built for the field. Cullman administrative staff carries the same rugged LTE handheld trusted by 1,000+ public safety agencies nationwide. Bus drivers have a reliable mobile in arm’s reach, enabling them to reach who they need, when they need them. Front office personnel get a desktop communicator at their workstation, paired with a handheld when they need to move. Every device is GPS-aware, recorded, and reachable from anywhere in the district — or beyond it.

The Results

Talk Paths, Multiplied

Bus traffic is now segmented by feeder pattern across the district – 150+ buses no longer fight for air time on one UHF channel. Coordinators, principals, and drivers each get the channels they need.

Coverage That Travels

Buses stay connected on field trips, athletic events, and any route – anywhere there's LTE coverage. Multi-carrier SIMs automatically select the strongest signal between AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon.

Real-Time GPS Awareness

Transportation sees every bus on a live map across the county. Timestamped location history is one click away when a parent calls or an incident needs review.

Direct Line to Public Safety

Area law enforcement, fire, and EMS are also on TangoTango – so drivers and administrators can reach responding officers and dispatch directly when seconds matter.

Administrators, Always Reachable

Principals and district leaders communicate privately and stay connected to their campus from anywhere – as long as there's LTE or Wi-Fi.

Direct Channel to the Shop

Drivers reach the maintenance shop on a dedicated talkgroup – no more relayed calls or radio tag. Issues get triaged immediately, before they become roadside problems.

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Moving from traditional LMR to LTE communications has been a game changer for our transportation department. We now have seamless coverage across the entire district, clearer communication with drivers, and the ability to instantly share critical information in real time. Beyond improving day-to-day operations, this transition has strengthened student safety, reduced communication gaps, and given our team the flexibility to stay connected whether on campus, on routes, or during emergency situations. LTE has modernized the way we operate and positioned us for the future.

– CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS, TRANSPORTATION

150+

BUSES CONNECTED
DISTRICT-WIDE

27

CAMPUSES LINKED ON
ONE PLATFORM

~1,300

EMPLOYEES ENABLED
TO COMMUNICATE

0

TOWERS, FCC
LICENSES, OR
REPEATERS

For transportation directors weighing an LMR refresh:

If your district is staring down a digital LMR upgrade, a new tower lease, or another round of radio programming, the math has changed. A modern LTE push-to-talk platform costs a fraction of a traditional radio refresh – and it delivers what legacy radios can't: nationwide coverage, real-time GPS, encrypted recording, smartphone reach for every employee, and direct interoperability with the public safety agencies that respond when something goes wrong.



Connecting
Schools.
Protecting
Students.
Empowering
Districts.

tangotango.net
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