

CENTEGIX® Impact Story

Leading with Vision: How Volusia County Schools Became an 'A' District After 16 Years



The Challenge

- Volusia County Schools needed a focused strategy to improve districtwide outcomes. The district hadn't earned an "A" state rating in 16 years, highlighting the need for stronger leadership to drive improvement.
- District leaders were also navigating the growing demands of modern education, where schools must support academic achievement, student well-being, behavioral challenges, and career readiness simultaneously.
- To achieve these goals, the district needed modern safety infrastructure, stronger coordination with law enforcement, and tools that enable rapid response to behavioral incidents or emergencies.

The Solution

- When Dr. Balgobin became superintendent in 2022, the district implemented a whole-child strategy that prioritizes both student achievement and school safety and climate.
- Volusia County Schools' layered safety approach includes supporting every campus with School Resource Officers or trained guardians, surveillance systems, visitor management protocols, controlled access points, and regular emergency preparedness drills.
- The district strengthened response capabilities by deploying the CENTEGIX Safety Platform® with CrisisAlert™ wearable badges, enabling staff to discreetly get assistance during emergencies or escalating behavioral incidents.
- At the same time, the district expanded their career and technical education programs from 164 to 279, allowing students to earn professional certifications and real-world credentials while still in school.

The Results

- In 2025, Volusia County Schools earned an **"A" district rating for the first time in 16 years**, placing it among the **top 10 districts in Florida**.
- Student success continues to rise, including a 95.6% graduation rate (Top 9 statewide) and a 73.8% college and career acceleration rate.
- Students earned more than 4,600 industry certifications in one year, while more than 200 graduates completed high school with associate's degrees.
- Safety initiatives have also strengthened school climate, with significant reductions in weapons incidents and disciplinary referrals, reflecting the impact of improved communication and response through tools like the CENTEGIX Safety Platform.



Always remember that we have two priorities here. One is to ensure that the safety and security of all students and staff remains our number one priority. We have several actions that have been implemented in our system that show our commitment to safety and security. And second is about providing quality educational experiences to every single one of our learners.



Dr. Carmen J. Balgobin, Superintendent, Volusia County Schools, FL



72K
students



8.1K
faculty and staff



87
schools

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Superintendent Dr. Carmen J. Balgobin

"Our goal is to be a trailblazer for school safety in Florida."



Was named District Administration Leadership Institute's **2025 Woman of the Year** for her impact on student success and district transformation.



Brings more than **30 years of education experience**, beginning as a classroom teacher before advancing to coach, principal, and deputy superintendent.



Focused on maintaining a clear district vision centered on **safe learning environments, academic excellence, and expanded opportunities** that prepare students for college and careers.