

# RAPIDSOS +



## RapidSOS and Nebraska Educational Service Unit 16 team up to provide enhanced safety for students with disabilities, their families and educators.

- 240 million<sup>1</sup> 9-1-1 calls are made every year in the U.S.; over 70%<sup>2</sup> are from mobile phones, which fail to provide exact location to emergency dispatchers
- Over 10,000 lives<sup>3</sup> are lost annually due to inadequate or inaccurate location information from mobile 9-1-1 calls
- Haven represents a transformation in access to emergency services – from a phone call solely dependent on voice to a robust data connection for voice, text, medical/demographic data

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Ogallala, NE (July 25, 2016).**

Nebraska Educational Service Unit 16 today announced a partnership with [RapidSOS](#), an advanced emergency technology start-up revolutionizing personal safety and family connectivity. The partnership will offer one year of free access to the RapidSOS Haven app, providing students with disabilities, their families and educators with enhanced access to emergency services. Haven sends important data to 9-1-1 to aid in fast emergency response and better situational awareness for first responders.

Through the Individualized Education Plan, RapidSOS and ESU 16 will support identified students with disabilities and their families, by connecting them to their loved ones and providing peace of mind that emergency help is one touch away. With one tap on Haven, the app connects the user with the nearest dispatch center anywhere in the contiguous U.S., while providing a voice connection and a data pipeline to 9-1-1, to transmit:

- GPS location
- Type of emergency
- Relevant medical and demographic data
- Text messages: Haven speaks the text message if the dispatch center does not have the capability to receive texts. Currently works one-way (user to 9-1-1); two-way coming in future

Additionally, after an alert has been triggered, Haven notifies emergency contacts, so that family and friends are informed, and not left in the dark if an emergency occurs.

“This partnership with ESU16 allows RapidSOS to help the school districts within ESU 16 and their community of students with disabilities, their families and educators stay connected and informed, both during emergencies and everyday life,” said RapidSOS co-founder and CEO Michael Martin. “Families

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<sup>1</sup> National Emergency Number Association. <http://www.nena.org/?page=911Statistics>

<sup>2</sup> National 911 Program. *Review of Nationwide 911 Data Collection*. <http://www.911.gov/pdf/current911datacollection-072613.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The Federal Communications Commission. *Proposes new indoor requirements and revisions to existing E911 rules*. <http://www.fcc.gov/document/proposes-new-indoor-requirements-and-revisions-existing-e911-rules>

deserve to be confident that they can reach emergency services quickly and reliably wherever they are, and Haven provides that.”

The Haven app also includes access to RapidSOS’ Family Connect feature. For the first time, people can call 9-1-1 on behalf of a loved one, transmitting their loved one’s location and relevant data directly to the dispatch center closest to them. Additionally, Family Connect allows users to share their location with loved ones, see family members’ real-time locations without the distraction of a phone call or text, and easily ask family and friends for help. A user can choose who can see their location and when it is shared, ensuring privacy and control.

“This partnership with RapidSOS gives families of the school districts in ESU 16, the ability to seamlessly communicate with emergency services and family members. A necessity in today’s world,” says Marge Beatty, ESU 16 Administrator.

“We’re always looking for ways to keep our students with disabilities and families better connected and informed, especially in the rare case of an emergency situation,” said Kris Elmshaeuser, ESU 16 Director of Special Services. “The built-in Family Connect feature is particularly valuable to ESU 16 families, and any modern family that’s on the go.” Through the Individualized Education Plan team process ESU 16 staff will support students with disabilities and their families in accessing this app to support the student in meeting their needs through the use of assistive technology.

RapidSOS is offering Haven free to those associated with ESU 16 for one year, if they sign up for the app here: <https://www.rapidsos.com/referrals/esu16/>. The Haven app is available for iPhone and Android devices and works anywhere across the contiguous U.S. and Hawaii, with one touch emergency calling in over 250 countries and jurisdictional territories. For more information about RapidSOS and the Haven app, visit [www.rapidsos.com](http://www.rapidsos.com).

### **About RapidSOS**

RapidSOS was formed in 2012 by a team of M.I.T., Harvard, and Stanford grad students who had personal experiences with the challenges of the existing emergency communication infrastructure. Working closely with the 9-1-1 community, tech and telecom companies, and leading investors, RapidSOS is developing technology to predict and preempt emergencies before they occur, dynamically warn people in harm’s way, and ensure that first responders are one touch away globally. Learn more at [www.RapidSOS.com](http://www.RapidSOS.com)

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### **About Educational Service Unit 16**

Educational Service Unit 16 (ESU 16) is located in Ogallala, Nebraska and currently employs 46 professional and support staff members. The purpose of ESU 16 is “to provide visionary leadership and equitable access to services for all learners”. A dedicated and superior staff has helped ESU 16 meet its goal of providing quality services since its inception in 1967.

ESU 16 provides an array of professional development, media/resource, special education, distance learning, technology and business services to sixteen K-12 school districts, as well as seven parochial

schools. The ESU16 service area is comprised of a nine-county area of west central Nebraska that covers 12,000 square miles and includes 8,979 students and 715 teachers.

Throughout the past 48 years, the primary objective of ESU 16 has been to provide quality staff development, media/resource, technology, distance learning, special education and business services to area school districts.

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