

## Defibrillators in Schools (Note)

According to the United States Department of Labor, “approximately 450,000 people die each year from sudden cardiac arrest in the United States” and “early defibrillation is the only definitive treatment for sudden cardiac arrest” with the best “save” rates occurring when an electric shock is delivered within three minutes of a patient's collapse. Because of the urgency of the situation, the increasing incidence of cardiac arrest in children, and the frequent use of schools as a gathering place for public functions and events for all ages, states have enacted legislation providing for the placement of automated external defibrillators (AED) in schools. Many of the acts are named in memory of a student who died of sudden cardiac arrest following an athletic practice or event at a school.

Alabama. Act 2009-754 ([SB 306](#)) requires an AED to be placed in each public K-12 school in the state and the local superintendent of education to designate at least one employee of each school to be trained in the use of the AED.

Arkansas. 2009 Ark. Act 496 ([SB 312](#)) requires the state board of education to promulgate rules so that each school campus has an AED and appropriate school personnel be adequately trained on an ongoing basis. The rules are required to include provisions regarding the availability of the AED at school-related events, schools are authorized to apply for grants from the department of health for purchasing the AED and providing training, and the state commissioner of education is required to report annually to the general assembly regarding implementation.

Connecticut. 2009 Conn. Acts 09-94 ([SB 981](#)) requires, if federal, state, or private funding is available, each public school to have an AED on site and personnel trained in the operation of the AED and in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The act requires the AED and trained personnel to be accessible during normal school hours and school-sponsored athletic practices and athletic events on school grounds. Each school is required to develop an emergency action response plan.

Florida. 2006 Fla. Laws c. 2006-301 ([SB 772](#)) requires each public school that is a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association to have an operational AED on school grounds, to provide training for employees and volunteers who are reasonably expected to use the AED, and to register the location of each AED with a local emergency medical services medical director. The act encourages public and private partnerships to cover the costs of purchase and training.

Georgia. 2008 Ga. Act 789 §2 ([HB 1031](#)) requires each public high school which has an interscholastic athletics program to have at least one functional AED on site at all times when students or athletes are present. The act requires training of expected users, notification of the location of the AED to local emergency medical services, maintenance of the AED, and involvement of a local physician in the school program. The act also authorizes local school systems to use private sources of funding or donations to acquire AEDs and provide training.

Ohio. 2004 Ohio Laws [H 434](#) authorizes local boards of education, the administrative authorities of chartered nonpublic schools, and the governing bodies of community schools to require the placement of AEDs in schools under their respective control and requires training of sufficient

personnel if an AED is so placed. The act also provides civil and criminal immunity for the good faith use of the AED by any person who attempts to perform automated external defibrillation.

Oregon. 2010 Or. Laws c. 62 §2 ([SB 1033](#)) requires each school campus in a school district, private school campus, and public charter school campus to have at least one AED on the premises.

Pennsylvania. 2014 Pa. Laws P.L. 427, No. 35, §1 ([HB 974](#)) requires the state department of education to establish an AED program to assist public and nonpublic schools in making AEDs available in school buildings. The act provides that the department biennially accept the bid of the lowest responsible bidder and permit the schools to purchase the AEDs at the contract price and also authorizes the department to purchase the devices from appropriated funds and distribute the devices to schools. To be able to purchase or receive an AED, a school must assure that at least two staff members are trained in its use, agree to properly place and maintain the AED, submit a valid prescription for the AED, and agree to provide additional training. The act provides civil immunity for school employees using the device and requires annual reporting regarding the number, condition, age, and placement of AEDs in each school building.

Virginia. 2013 Va. Acts Ch. 530 ([HB 2028](#)) authorizes each local school board to develop a plan to allow for the placement, care, and use, and funding of and AED in every school and requires each school board with 10 or more staff members to have at least three employees with current certification in AED use.