

# Medical Emergency Response Plans for Schools

This Act requires schools and charter schools to have a written medical emergency response plan to reduce the incidence of life-threatening emergencies and promote efficient responses to such emergencies. Each plan shall include:

- a method for establishing a rapid communication system linking all parts of the school campus, including outdoor facilities and practice fields, to the emergency medical services system and protocols to clarify when the emergency medical services system and other emergency contact people shall be called;
- a determination of emergency medical service response time to any location on campus;
- a list of relevant contacts and telephone numbers with a protocol indicating when each 19 person shall be called, including names of experts to help with post-event support;
- a method to efficiently direct emergency medical services personnel to any location on campus, including to the location of available rescue equipment;
- safety precautions to prevent injuries in classrooms and on the facilities;
- a method of providing access to training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid for teachers, athletic coaches and trainers and other school staff, which may include training high school students in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and
- in the event the school possesses an automated external defibrillator, the location of said device, whether or not its location is either fixed or portable, and those personnel who are trained in its use.

Submitted as:

Massachusetts

[SB 2132](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2012.

## Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] An Act relative to medical emergency response plans for schools.

2

3 Section 2. [*Requirements.*]

4

5 (a) Each school committee and commonwealth charter school board of trustees shall ensure  
6 that every school under its jurisdiction has a written medical emergency response plan to reduce the  
7 incidence of life-threatening emergencies and promote efficient responses to such emergencies. The  
8 plan shall be in addition to the multi-hazard evacuation plan required by [insert citation]. Each plan  
9 shall include:

10 (1) a method for establishing a rapid communication system linking all parts of the  
11 school campus, including outdoor facilities and practice fields, to the emergency medical services  
12 system and protocols to clarify when the emergency medical services system and other emergency  
13 contact people shall be called;

14 (2) a determination of emergency medical service response time to any location on  
15 campus;

16 (3) a list of relevant contacts and telephone numbers with a protocol indicating when  
17 each person shall be called, including names of experts to help with post-event support;

1 (4) a method to efficiently direct emergency medical services personnel to any  
2 location on campus, including to the location of available rescue equipment;

3 (5) safety precautions to prevent injuries in classrooms and on the facilities;

4 (6) a method of providing access to training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first  
5 aid for teachers, athletic coaches and trainers and other school staff, which may include training high  
6 school students in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

7 (7) in the event the school possesses an automated external defibrillator, the location  
8 of said device, whether or not its location is either fixed or portable, and those personnel who are  
9 trained in its use.

10 Plans shall be developed in consultation with the school nurse, school athletic team  
11 physicians, coaches and trainers, and the local emergency medical services agency, as appropriate.  
12 Schools shall practice the response sequence at the beginning of each school year and periodically  
13 throughout the year and evaluate and modify the plan as needed. Plans shall be submitted once every  
14 three years to the department of elementary and secondary education on or before [insert date],  
15 beginning in the school year immediately following the effective date of this Act. Plans must also be  
16 updated in the case of new construction or physical changes to the school campus.

17 Included in each initial and subsequent filing of a medical emergency response plan, each  
18 school district shall report on the availability of automated external defibrillators in each school  
19 within the district, including, the total amount available in each school, the location of each within  
20 the school, whether or not said device is in a fixed location or is portable, those personnel or  
21 volunteers who are trained in its use, those personnel with access to said device during regular  
22 school hours and after, and the total estimated amount necessary to ensure access during school  
23 hours, after-school activities, and public events.

24 (b) The department of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with the  
25 department of public health, shall develop a model medical emergency response plan in order to  
26 promote best practices. In developing the model plan, the department shall refer to research prepared  
27 by the American Heart Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and other relevant  
28 organizations that identifies the essential components of a medical emergency response plan. The  
29 department shall biennially update the model plan and post the plan on its website.

30  
31 Section 3. [*Legislative report submission.*]

32 The [state] department of education shall submit a report to the clerks of the senate and the  
33 house of representatives who shall forward the same to the chairs of the [relevant committees of  
34 jurisdiction] on the implementation of this initiative, the number of students and personnel certified  
35 each year in first-aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, and the number of schools that opt out of  
36 instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation as required by [insert citation] by [insert date].

37  
38 Section 4. [*Severability.*] Insert severability clause.

39  
40 Section 5. [*Repealer.*] Insert repealer clause.

41  
42 Section 6. [*Effective Date.*] Insert effective date.