



Subject: Approve Cardiac Emergency Response Plan
Date: December 17, 2024

In July of 2024, House Bill 5394 was signed into law which requires schools and school athletic facilities to have comprehensive Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPs). This new law will further the American Heart Association's goal to encourage CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) knowledge and preparedness in schools for both students and teachers. The bill amended the School Safety Drill Act to require all school districts to create a cardiac emergency response plan to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while at a school or at a school-sponsored activity or event.

Under the new law (effective January 1, 2025), principals and school administrators must also ensure that the plan is available on paper and digitally. HB5394 will also require plans to be distributed to athletic coaches, all relevant staff, all persons responsible for executing the plan in the event of a cardiac emergency, and any health care personnel providing care during school-sponsored activities.

A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) is a written document that establishes the specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in any setting – be it a school, community organization, workplace, or sports facility. The following steps are recommended in order to successfully implement a cardiac emergency response plan:

- Create a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan
 - Learn about sudden cardiac arrest and CPR
 - Review the CERP Guidance for School Districts
 - Understand which resources and organizations can support this effort
 - Identify the members of the Cardiac Emergency Response Team (CERT) at the district and school levels
 - Draft your Cardiac Emergency Response Plan
- Share your Cardiac Emergency Response Plan
 - Share with all staff, volunteers, and organizations that use your facilities
 - Post in high traffic hallways and near AEDs
 - Distribute annual updates accordingly
- Practice your Cardiac Emergency Response Plan
 - Practice using routine drills per a schedule
 - Utilize digital and online resources as needed
 - Review drills and evaluate for possible updates
- Activate your Cardiac Emergency Response Team
 - Use the Protocol for CERT when responding to a cardiac emergency
- Evaluate your Cardiac Emergency Response Team
 - Evaluate your plan annually to improve process and documentation

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan.