

A mandated policy to consider.

Students

Student Sports – Emergency Action Plans

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes that emergency situations may arise at any time during interscholastic and intramural athletic events. Expedient action must be taken in order to provide the best possible care to the sport participant's emergency and/or life threatening conditions. The development and implementation of an emergency plan will help ensure that the best care will be provided.

As emergencies may occur at any time and during any activity, all school employees (and sports medicine teams) must be prepared. This preparation involves formulation of an emergency plan, proper coverage of events, maintenance of appropriate emergency equipment and supplies, utilization of appropriate emergency medical personnel, and continuing education in the area of emergency medicine and planning. Through careful pre-participation physical screenings, adequate medical coverage, safe practice and training techniques, and other safety avenues, some potential emergencies may be averted. However, accidents and injuries are inherent with sports participation, and proper preparation on the part of the staff should enable each emergency situation to be managed appropriately.

Emergency Action Plan Development

The Board directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to create and apply, starting with the school year beginning July 1, 2022, an emergency action plan (plan) to respond to serious and life-threatening sports-related injuries during interscholastic or intramural athletic events. Such plan must have procedures to follow when a student sustains a serious injury or illness while participating in an interscholastic or intramural athletic event, and include required components enumerated in P.A. 21-92.

The plan must be developed in consultation with local emergency medical services providers and allied health professionals. The plan must be reviewed annually, updated as necessary, and annually rehearsed by the implementing staff.

Plan Components

In compliance with P.A. 21-92, the plan must include the following:

1. A list of the school employees, coaches, or licensed athletic trainers who will be responsible for implementing the plan and a description of responsibilities for each person;
2. The location or venue where the athletic events occur;
3. A description, including the location, of the equipment and supplies available at athletic event sites that will help these people respond to an emergency;

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Plan Components (continued)

4. The procedures to follow when a student sustains a serious sports-related injury, including:
 - a. responding to the injured student;
 - b. summoning emergency medical care;
 - c. assisting first responders arriving for the student; and
 - d. documenting the actions taken.
5. The protocols to follow during cardiac or respiratory emergencies, including operating an automatic external defibrillator; using cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); or administering medication in accordance with state law on school staff administering medication to students at school athletic events;
6. The protocols to follow when a student shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or is diagnosed with one, in accordance with the state law on concussions, including immediately removing the student from a game;
7. The protocols to follow when a student suffers a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury, which must:
 - a. include instructions based on the level of training of the person implementing the plan;
 - b. meet best practices and state law; and
8. The protocols to follow for heat and cold-related emergencies, which must meet current professional standards.

Staff Requirements

Any District employee, coach, or licensed athletic trainer identified in the emergency action plan must be CPR certified and have completed a first aid course offered by the American Red Cross (ARC), the American Heart Association (AHA), the Department of Public Health, a health director, or an organization using AHA and ARC first aid guidelines.

Plan Distribution

The Emergency Action Plan is to be distributed to all school employees, coaches, and licensed athletic trainers identified in the plan. It shall also be posted in all athletic facilities and at all sites where interscholastic and intramural athletic events take place and is must be posted on District and/or school's websites.

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- (cf. 5125.11 – Health/Medical Records HIPAA)
- (cf. 5141 – Student Health Services)
- (cf. 5141.21 – Administration of Medications)
- (cf. 5141.25 – Food allergy Management)
- (cf. 5141.26 – Emergency Situations with No Nurse in School)
- (cf. 5141.27 – Use of Automatic External Defibrillators)
- (cf. 5141.28 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest)
- (cf. 5141.7 – Student Sports-Concussions/Head Injuries)
- (cf. 5141.71 – Exertional Heat Awareness Plan)
- (cf. 5142 – Student Safety)
- (cf. 5141.3 – Health Assessments & Immunizations)
- (cf. 6145.2 – Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
P.A. 21-92 An Act Concerning Emergency Action Plans for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events.
10-204a Required immunizations, as amended by PA 15-174 & PA 15-242 and PA 21-6.
10-204c Immunity from liability.
10-205 Appointment of school medical advisors.
10-206 Health assessments, as amended by PA 07-58, PA 11-179 and PA 18-168.
10-207 Duties of medical advisers.
10-208 Exemption from examination or treatment.
10-208a Physical activity of student restricted; boards to honor notice.
10-209 Records not to be public.
10-212 School nurses and nurse practitioners.
10-212a Administration of medicines by school personnel.
Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of P.L. 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g).
42 U.S.C. 1320d-1320d-8, P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

Policy adopted:

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