



Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) in Schools How This Fits with School Safety

Sudden cardiac arrest is rare in young people, but it can happen. Each year, 356,000 adults and 23,000 children experience out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Schools serve as central hubs for community events, often hosting staff, parents, and other community members.

Responding to cardiac emergencies fits within the broader framework of school safety and security by preventing unnecessary deaths through equipping schools with essential life-saving resources. A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) prepares schools to save lives in the event of cardiac arrest. By establishing clear policies and procedures, survival rates can more than double. A CERP empowers those nearby to act quickly by dialing 911, starting CPR, and using an AED. In schools equipped with AEDs, children who experience cardiac arrest are seven times more likely to survive compared to schools without them.

- Short Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) overview
 - Designation of a sudden cardiac emergency response team.
 - Protocols for activation during cardiac arrest.
 - Placement and maintenance of AEDs in line with best practices.
 - Communication of the plan throughout the school.
 - Periodic emergency drills.
 - Coordination with local EMS, including considerations for athletic events to ensure AED accessibility.

Legislation can require schools to create CERPs with specific best-practice elements or direct the USBE to collaborate with DHHS to develop frameworks for schools or LEAs to implement independently.

Funding options include state agency budgets, foundation grants, or directing LEAs to apply for federal grant funding through the DHHS, such as the Hearts Act of 2024. The cost of an AED ranges from \$1,200 to \$3,000, with additional expenses for a maintenance plan.

In 2024 alone, 13 states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma-SB1921-2024, Tennessee, West Virginia) have passed such legislation with bipartisan support.

How to integrate CERP with School Safety Amendments

- Building standards-AED and placement requirements.
- School safety personal-lead CERT, are CPR trained.
- School Safety Foundation for AED funding option.



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