

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/10/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1398

By: Representative L. Johnson

By: Senator D. Wallace

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT, ESTABLISH, AND IMPLEMENT A CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN THAT INTEGRATES NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ELEMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT, ESTABLISH, AND IMPLEMENT A CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN THAT INTEGRATES NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ELEMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-713(a), concerning the definition relating to student sudden cardiac arrest education, is amended to read as follows:

(a)~~(1)~~ As used in this section, ~~“athletic activity”~~:

(1)(A) "Athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity that is sponsored or associated with a school and in which the participants, a majority of whom are under nineteen (19) years of age, are:

~~(A)(i)~~ Engaged in an athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity; or

~~(B)(ii)~~ In practice or preparation for an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity.

~~(2)(B) As used in this section, “athletic activity”~~ "Athletic activity" includes without limitation:

~~(A)(i)~~ Interscholastic athletics;



~~(B)(ii)~~ Cheerleading, whether or not the cheerleading is competitive;

~~(C)(iii)~~ Club-sponsored sports activities; and

~~(D)(iv)~~ Sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations;

(2) "Automated external defibrillator" means the same as defined in § 20-13-1303;

(3) "Cardiopulmonary resuscitation" means the same as defined in § 20-13-1303;

(4) "Cardiac emergency response plan" means a written document that establishes the specific steps to be taken during a suspected cardiac emergency or similar life-threatening emergency to reduce death from cardiac arrest in any setting; and

(5) "Sudden cardiac arrest" means a medical condition in which the heart stops beating unexpectedly and can quickly lead to death.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-713, concerning student sudden cardiac arrest education, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(g)(1) Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, each school shall develop and implement a protocol within the emergency operation plan addressing a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds.

(2) In developing a cardiac emergency response plan, a school shall ensure that the cardiac emergency response plan includes without limitation:

(A) Integrated nationally recognized core elements, such as elements recommended by a nationally recognized organization focused on emergency cardiovascular care;

(B) The establishment of a cardiac emergency response team;

(C) A requirement that the cardiac emergency response team be activated in response to a sudden cardiac arrest;

(D)(i) A process for automated external defibrillator

placement and routine maintenance within the school.

(ii) Appropriate automated external defibrillator placement shall be determined by the cardiac emergency response plan in accordance with guidelines of the American Heart Association or an organization focused on emergency cardiovascular care.

(iii) An automated external defibrillator shall be:

(a) Placed on site;

(b) Identified with appropriate signage;

(c) Made available in an unlocked location on school property; and

(d) Encouraged to be used on an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency within three (3) minutes;

(E) A requirement that the cardiac emergency response plan be disseminated throughout the school campus;

(F)(i) A process for maintenance of ongoing staff training in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation or automated external defibrillator, or both.

(ii) Appropriate school staff shall be trained in use of first-aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and automated external defibrillator through guidelines of a nationally recognized organization focused on emergency cardiovascular care;

(G) The incorporation of annual practice drills regarding sudden cardiac arrest;

(H)(i) The integration of local emergency medical services with the cardiac emergency response plan.

(ii) School officials shall work directly with local emergency service providers to integrate the cardiac emergency response plan into the community's emergency medical services responder protocols; and

(I) A procedure for review and evaluate the cardiac emergency response plan.

(3) The Department of Education may establish a procedure for monitoring adherence by schools to the requirements under this section.

(4) A school shall incorporate the requirements of this section at the next scheduled revision of the school's emergency operations plan, but no later than the 2026-2027 school year

/s/L. Johnson