

CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN GUIDANCE FOR ILLINOIS SCHOOLS

Public Act 103-0608 went into effect on Jan. 1, 2025. It updates the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act and the School Safety Drill Act and creates two new health-related mandates for schools.

The [Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act](#) (105 ILCS 110/1 et seq.) requires the school board of each public elementary and secondary school in the state to provide all teachers, administrators, and other school personnel as determined by school officials with information regarding emergency procedures and life-saving techniques.

- Such information must include, without limitation, the Heimlich maneuver, hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). All of this information must be compiled in accordance with standards set by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or another nationally recognized certifying organization.
- Such information must be distributed no later than 30 days after the first day of each school year. **The legislation specifies that this information must be distributed beginning with the 2025-26 school year.**
- This mandate applies to school boards for public schools only.

The [School Safety Drill Act](#) (105 ILCS 128/1 et seq.) requires that school districts and private schools develop a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan and distribute it to all teachers, administrators, school support personnel, coaches, and other school staff identified by school administrators at each school.

The plan must adhere to guidelines set forth by the American Heart Association or other nationally recognized, evidence-based standards for responding to individuals experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergencies.

- No implementation date is specified; therefore, Jan. 1, 2025, is considered to be the effective date. **All plans must be developed by that date and thereafter must be distributed to staff. The Act does not specify a timeline for distribution.**
- This mandate applies to school districts and nonpublic schools.

ISBE will not be providing any additional guidance on this matter. However, if you are seeking further information or resources, it is recommended that you consult the American Heart Association [CERP guidelines](#), which offer comprehensive and reliable information on the topic.
