



Illinois State Board of Education

August 1, 2015

Guidance Document 15-06

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in Secondary Schools (PA 98-0632)

Effective Date: July 1, 2014

*This document is intended to provide non-regulatory guidance on the subject matter listed above.
For specific questions, please contact the person(s) identified in the document.*

Tony Smith, Ph.D., State Superintendent

TO: Directors of Special Education
Directors of Health Education
Directors of Physical Education
Other Interested Parties

FROM: David Andel
Division Administrator
Special Education Services Division
Specialized Instruction, Nutrition and Wellness

DATE: August 1, 2015

SUBJECT: CPR/AED in Secondary Schools
[Public Act (PA) 98-0632]

Public Act 98-0632 amends the *Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act* so that beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, training on how to properly administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) be included in curricula for all secondary schools within the state. Please note that this guidance is regarding the legislation and is not an exhaustive review of changes or available resources.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where is this law found?

Public Act 98-0632 may be found at the following link:
<http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/PDF/098-0632.pdf>.ⁱ

2. When did this law take effect?

The legislation became effective on July 1, 2014, the date in which it was signed into law. Schools are required to implement this training beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.

3. What does this law require of schools?

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, all secondary schools in the state shall include instruction (training) on CPR and use of AEDs and the instruction must be included in the curriculum.

4. Does this law include private schools as well as public schools?

The law states “all secondary schools in the state” which includes public, charter, and private schools.

5. One semester or the equivalent of 16 weeks of health education is required in high school, grades 9-12. Must training be provided in the health education course that is mandated for

high school students?

The instruction must be incorporated into the health education curriculum but it is not required to be within that specific course time. However, the instruction must be verified within the syllabus of whichever course (PE, health, etc.) in which it is offered.

6. If instruction in CPR/AED is part of the 9th or 10th grade requirement, are schools required to provide the training for students in 11th or 12th grades prior to their graduation?

No, if the student has already passed the grade level at which this instruction is implemented, he or she does not have to acquire that instruction.

7. What must be covered in the class and how much time needs to be assigned to this subject area?

The law does not specify content but both the American Red Cross and American Heart Association require that content must cover both lecture/demonstration and practice. It does not need to cover mouth-to-mouth or mouth-to-face mask or rescue breathing. It is important to devote enough time to fully cover the instruction and provide adequate time to practice skills with observation by the person teaching. It is suggested that three (3) class periods or more may be needed, depending on class size and numbers of practice units (mannequins or other appropriate devices). The instruction may be delivered in person or by video, online, webinar, or by reading of manuals. Practice must include hands-on skill delivery. Supervision should be provided by an instructor holding a current CPR/AED certificate.

8. Must students receive a card showing they have passed the instruction?

No, students do not have to receive a card or proof of certification in CPR/AED.

9. Is the student required to pass CPR/AED training for graduation?

No, the student does not need to demonstrate competence in CPR/AED for graduation and the instruction does not have to be reflected on transcripts.

10. May students opt out of this instruction?

A student is not required to take or participate in this instruction if: (a) the student's parent or guardian provides the school with a written objection; or (b) there are needed modifications of the instruction per the IEP of a student enrolled in the class.

11. Who may provide this training/instruction?

The law states that the training must be in accordance with standards of the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association or another nationally recognized certifying organization. The law does not specify the credentials of the trainer/instructor. Both the American Red Cross and American Heart Association maintain that the most qualified individual is a person who holds an instructor

certificate in CPR/AED by one of those organizations.

The use of a teacher or a school nurse, licensed by ISBE, who are also certified as instructors in CPR/AED, would provide the highest credentials to provide this classroom instruction. If utilizing a trainer other than a licensed educator, then these regulations in accordance with Section 10-22.34b of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-22.34b], must be followed:

- a. School districts may, with the prior approval of the responsible regional superintendent of schools, utilize unlicensed persons to provide specialized instruction not otherwise readily available in the immediate school environment in the fields for which they are particularly qualified by reason of specialized knowledge or skill. The regional superintendent shall approve an assignment of this type when:
 - i. The individual holding a professional educator license endorsed in a teaching field under whose direction the instruction will be provided has specified in writing the material to be covered and the amount of time to be allotted for the specialized instruction;
 - ii. The district superintendent has identified in writing the selected individual's professional competence or outstanding proficiency in the area of specialization in which instruction is to be provided;
 - iii. The district superintendent has affirmed in writing that a district representative has determined the environment where instruction will be provided, if away from the school, to be safe and appropriate to the age of the students involved; and
 - iv. The district superintendent has described the precise function to be served by the specialized instruction and any compensation to be paid to the selected individual.

12. How will ISBE monitor compliance?

The Regional Offices of Education and/or ISBE may monitor a district for compliance with this law from year to year.

For further information, please contact Jessica Gerdes, Special Education Services Division, Illinois State Board of Education, at (312) 814-5560.

ⁱ Related citations: 210 ILCS 50/3.150(d); 410 ILCS 4/20; 410 ILCS 4/30