

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H3/10/25

95th General Assembly

## A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

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;



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

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

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

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

8                   (3) "Cardiopulmonary resuscitation" means the same as defined in  
9 § 20-13-1303;

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

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

16  
17           SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-713, concerning student sudden cardiac  
18 arrest education, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as  
19 follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 placement and routine maintenance within the school.

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

6 (iii) An automated external defibrillator shall be:  
7 (a) Placed on site;  
8 (b) Identified with appropriate signage;  
9 (c) Made available in an unlocked location on  
10 school property; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*/s/L. Johnson*

**APPROVED: 3/20/25**