

**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION RULES  
GOVERNING EMERGENCY RESPONSE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING  
IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Effective: August 10, 2024**

**1.00 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Rules is to establish the requirements and procedures for Governing school-based Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) programs in Arkansas Public Schools.

**2.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

This rule was promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-10-122, and 6-10-123.

**3.00 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Rule, the following terms mean:

3.01 “Arkansas Public Schools” means all public and charter schools;

3.02 “Automated External Defibrillator” means a device that:

3.02.1 Is used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart;

3.02.2 Has built-in computers within the device to assess the patient’s heart rhythm and judge whether defibrillation is needed;

3.02.3 Has audible or visual prompts, or both, to guide the user through the process;

3.02.4 Has received approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration of its pre-market modification, filed pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 360(k);

3.02.5 Is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation and rapid ventricular tachycardia and is capable of determining without intervention by an operator whether defibrillation should be performed; and

3.02.6 Upon determining if the defibrillation should be performed, the AED either automatically charges and delivers an electrical impulse to an individual’s heart or charges and delivers an electrical impulse at the

command of the operator.

- 3.03 “CPR/AED Provider” means a member or employee of a campus who has completed training in CPR in addition to knowledge and understanding of an AED’s operation and use under the requirements set forth in this rule.
- 3.04 “Cardiac arrest” means a condition, often sudden, that is due to abnormal heart rhythms called arrhythmias. It is generally the result of some underlying form of heart disease.
- 3.05 “Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)” means a combination of rescue breathing, chest compressions, and external cardiac massage used to sustain a person’s life until advanced assistance arrives.
- 3.06 “Defibrillation” means administering the electrical impulse to an individual’s heart in order to stop ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia.
- 3.07 “Department” means Arkansas Department of Education
- 3.08 “Emergency Medical Services” means the transportation and medical care provided the ill or injured prior to arrival at a medical facility by a licensed emergency medical technician or other health care provider and continuation of the initial emergency care within a medical facility subject to the approval of the medical staff and governing board of that facility.
- 3.09 “Extra-curricular event” means any school sponsored program or voluntary activity sponsored by the school, local education agency, or an organization sanctioned by the local education agency where students are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or criticism, or qualification for additional competition or including preparation for and involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays and club activities.
- 3.10 “FDA” means the Federal Food and Drug Administration
- 3.11 “School-Personnel” means School Board approved/contract employee of the district that is required to follow school policy and procedures.
- 3.12 “Program Coordinator” means an individual, appointed by the school district, who is responsible for administration of the Automated External Defibrillation program for their respective campus.
- 3.13 “Protocol” means currently approved and accepted procedures describing specific steps a provider must follow in assessing and treating a patient.

- 3.14 “Renewal” means the period training and demonstration of competence in the application and use of automated defibrillation equipment.
- 3.15 “School campus” means any public school building or cluster of buildings, including grounds, with a Department of Education-issued LEA number, that is used for any purpose, including, without limitation: an extracurricular activity, organized physical activity course defined in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-137, pre-kindergarten education, or district administration.
- 3.16 “School sponsored event” means any event or activity sponsored by the school or school system which includes but is not limited to athletic events, booster clubs, parent-teacher organizations, or any activity designed to enhance the school curriculum whether on school-campus or not.
- 3.17 “Sudden Cardiac Arrest” means a sudden or unexpected cessation of heart function, most often caused by a sudden arrhythmia, such as ventricular fibrillation (VF). When this occurs, the heart’s electrical impulses suddenly become chaotic and ineffective. Blood flow to the brain abruptly stops and the victim collapses and quickly loses consciousness. Death usually follows unless a normal heart rhythm is restored within minutes.
- 3.18 “Ventricular Fibrillation” means the most common arrhythmia that causes cardiac arrest. It is a condition in which the heart’s electrical impulses suddenly become chaotic, often without warning, causing the heart’s pumping action to stop abruptly.

#### **4.00 REQUIREMENTS**

- 4.01 Each school campus must have an Automated External Defibrillator, and appropriate school personnel must be adequately trained on an ongoing basis as outlined in Section 9.0 of this Rule.

#### **5.00 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR MODEL**

- 5.01 Defibrillators acceptable for use in Arkansas public schools are:
- 5.01.1 FDA approved;
  - 5.01.2 Automated type requiring provider intervention to initiate a defibrillation shock; and
  - 5.01.3 Capable of automatically collecting data.
- 5.02 No modifications will be made to defibrillation equipment, by the provider or the service, which results in:

5.02.1 Deviation from the original manufacturer's specifications, or

5.02.2 Deviation from AED protocols which are: Early access- calling 911; Early CPR - starting CPR immediately; Early Defibrillation - utilizing the onsite AED within three (3)-five (5) minutes of onset; and Early Advanced Care - trained health care providers arriving to provide advanced care.

## **6.00 DEFIBRILLATOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE/REPAIR**

6.01 Each school district shall designate appropriate personnel to be responsible for the maintenance of the AED(s).

6.02 All components of the AED and integrated data recording system shall be inspected by a qualified service technician at least one (1) time per calendar year or as recommended by the manufacturer to ensure:

6.02.1 The equipment meets original manufacturer's specifications;

6.02.2 The equipment maintains the currently approved treatment protocols based on the current American Heart Association scientific guidelines, standards, and recommendations for the use of the AED.

6.02.3 The battery of the AED shall be maintained and replaced in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

6.02.4 All maintenance and repairs shall be performed by a qualified service technician recognized by the manufacturer.

6.02.5 Written records shall be maintained for all maintenance, repairs, and inspections performed on all components for mandated annual state reporting purposes.

## **7.00 AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR**

7.01 Each school shall designate appropriate personnel to be responsible for ensuring the availability of the AED.

7.02 The location of AEDs shall be based on the following:

7.02.1. Size and physical layout of the buildings;

7.02.2 Number and ages of individuals in the building;

7.02.3 Types and locations of curricular, extracurricular, and school-sponsored events;

- 7.02.4 Design features that might be unique to the building; and
- 7.02.5 Each school shall report, in a format approved by the Division, maintenance records and any use of an AED.
- 7.03 During school hours, the AED will be placed at designated locations.
  - 7.03.1 These locations shall be specific to each school but should allow the device to be easily seen and accessed by staff.
  - 7.03.2 The locations should allow staff members to retrieve the device outside of normal school hours.
- 7.04 AEDs shall not be located or stored in a locked office or room.
- 7.05 Each school-sponsored sporting event for grades seven through twelve (7-12) shall have an automated external defibrillator at the school sponsored sporting event.

## **8.00 SCHOOL APPOINTED PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

- 8.01 The school appointed program coordinator shall:
  - 8.01.1 Maintain current provider status in CPR and AED;
  - 8.01.2 Assure that the CPR and AED providers on campus receive appropriate training in the use and maintenance of the school's AED(s);
  - 8.01.3 Oversee training operations for the school and maintain organizational training reports;
  - 8.01.4 Ensure AED equipment is maintained according to manufacturer and treatment protocol specifications based on the current American Heart Association scientific guidelines, standards, and recommendations for the use of the AED;
    - 8.01.4.1 This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that AED pads and batteries have not expired;
  - 8.01.5 Provide professional development opportunities annually for AED providers and all school employees, if applicable;
  - 8.01.6 Verify credentials of personnel functioning as an AED provider within the school; and
  - 8.01.7 Review each use of the AED.

- 8.02 If the Program Coordinator is not a healthcare provider, a healthcare provider must oversee these activities.

## **9.00 QUALITY TRAINING**

- 9.01 Appropriate training of anticipated rescuers in the use of the AED and in CPR will incorporate at least the following:
- 9.01.1 Testing of psychomotor skills based on the American Heart Association scientific guidelines, standards, and recommendations for the use of the AED, as they existed on January 1, 2021; and
  - 9.01.2 Providing CPR as published by the American Heart Association, or the American Red Cross, or equivalent course materials, as they existed on January 1, 2021;
  - 9.01.3 Coordination with the emergency medical services system; and
  - 9.01.4 An ongoing quality improvement program to monitor training and evaluate response with each use of an AED.

## **10.00 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

- 10.01 Automated external defibrillator and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training shall count fully toward the existing professional development requirements for teachers and school personnel as noted in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Professional Development.

## **11.00 REPORTING**

- 11.01 The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide a report to the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the House committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor on or before July 1-of each year.
- 11.02 Schools shall annually report to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education the implementation of these Rules and status of AED availability on each school campus by May 1.
- 11.03 An AED Incident Report Form shall be completed and submitted to the School Health Services Director within thirty (30) days following an event. This form shall include relevant information regarding the incidence and use of the AED and the client outcome.

## 12.00 OPIOID OVERDOSE RESCUE KIT

- 12.01 The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall consult and collaborate with the Criminal Justice Institute and the office of the Arkansas Drug Director to ensure that each public high school campus in the State of Arkansas has an opioid overdose rescue kit that is clearly visible and labeled with the words "Overdose Rescue Kit — Naloxone Nasal Spray" or other language approved by the division.
- 12.02 The location of each opioid overdose rescue kit required under 12.01 shall be registered with the school nurse and school resource officer.
- 12.03 At all times while present on school property, a school nurse and a school resource officer shall carry on their person at all times:
- 12.03.1 Narcan;
  - 12.03.2 Naloxone; or
  - 12.03.3 Another medication approved by the Department of Health and the FDA that, when administered, negates or neutralizes, in whole or in part, the pharmacological effects of an opioid in the human body.
- 12.04 An opioid overdose rescue kit required under section 12.01 shall:
- 12.04.1 Be:
    - 12.04.1.1 Located where it is readily available for public use; and
    - 12.04.1.2 Placed within all storage locations that currently contain an automated external defibrillator for public use;
  - 12.04.2 Be visually free of advertisement; and
  - 12.04.3 Include without limitation:
    - 12.04.3.1 Narcan;
    - 12.04.3.2 Naloxone; or
    - 12.04.3.3 Another medication approved by the Department of Health and the FDA that, when administered, negates or neutralizes, in whole or in part, the pharmacological effects of an opioid in the human body.

12.05 A school resource officer or school nurse, as appropriate, shall report through the Criminal Justice Institute to the office of the Arkansas Drug Director within the Department of Human Services immediately following the use of an opioid overdose rescue kit required under this section.