

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 595

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 1, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE
2 ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-144, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS
3 REGARDING CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMS; AND DECLARING AN EMER-
4 GENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Chapter 1, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
8 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
9 ignated as Section 33-144, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

10 33-144. CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM. (1) As used in this sec-
11 tion:

12 (a) "Automated external defibrillator" or "AED" means a lightweight,
13 portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the
14 heart. The shock can potentially stop an irregular heartbeat and allow
15 a normal rhythm to resume following cardiac arrest.

16 (b) "Cardiac arrest" means any event that occurs when the heart mal-
17 functions and stops beating unexpectedly, which if not treated within
18 minutes quickly leads to death.

19 (c) "Cardiac emergency response plan" or "CERP" means a written docu-
20 ment that establishes the specific steps to reduce death from cardiac
21 arrest in any setting.

22 (d) "School" means all public school districts and public charter
23 schools in the state of Idaho.

24 (2) The state department of education shall collaborate with school
25 district leadership and the Idaho high school activities association to
26 develop and provide guidelines for a cardiac emergency response plan and
27 incorporation of cardiac emergency response plans into current emergency
28 response policies.

29 (3) (a) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each school shall de-
30 velop a CERP addressing the appropriate use of school personnel to re-
31 spond to incidents involving an individual experiencing cardiac arrest
32 or similar life-threatening emergencies on school grounds.

33 (b) All CERPs shall incorporate evidence-based standards and core ele-
34 ments recommended by nationally recognized bodies, such as those recom-
35 mended by the American Heart Association or other organizations focused
36 on emergency cardiovascular care.

37 (c) AEDs shall be placed in accordance with the CERP on school grounds
38 and facilities in an unlocked and accessible location so as to have the
39 ability to be placed on a victim within three (3) minutes of recognition
40 of sudden cardiac arrest.

41 (d) AEDs shall be tested and maintained in accordance with manufacturer
42 guidelines, and all maintenance records and information regarding the

1 device may be provided to emergency medical services and other first re-
2 sponders and emergency response workers.

3 (e) Appropriate school staff shall be trained in first aid, CPR, and
4 AED use that follows evidence-based guidelines set forth by the ameri-
5 can heart association or an organization focused on emergency cardio-
6 vascular care. Staff trained shall be determined by the CERP, including
7 but not limited to coaches, school nurses, health and physical educa-
8 tion instructors, athletic trainers, and administrators.

9 (4) (a) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each school with an
10 athletic department or organized athletic program or participating in
11 organized athletics shall develop a CERP that addresses the appropriate
12 use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual
13 experiencing cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency
14 while attending or participating in an athletic practice or event while
15 on school grounds or school athletic facilities that are venue-spe-
16 cific.

17 (b) An AED shall be clearly marked and easily accessible in an unlocked
18 location at each school athletic venue and event. The AED shall be ac-
19 cessible during any school-sponsored athletic event or team practice in
20 which pupils of the school are participating.

21 (c) AEDs shall be tested and maintained in accordance with manufacturer
22 guidelines, and all maintenance records and information regarding the
23 device may be provided to emergency medical services and other first re-
24 sponders and emergency response workers.

25 (d) All coaches shall obtain and maintain training in CPR, first aid,
26 and the use of AEDs. Certification in CPR and AED use shall be consis-
27 tent with national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guide-
28 lines.

29 (5) The state department of education or local school board may estab-
30 lish a procedure for monitoring adherence to the requirements set forth in
31 this section.

32 (6) A local school board may accept gifts, grants, and donations, in-
33 cluding in-kind donations, designated for the purchase of an AED that meets
34 the standards established by the United States food and drug administration
35 and for the costs incurred to inspect and maintain such device and train
36 staff in the use of such device.

37 (7) All persons administering or adhering to this section shall be im-
38 mune from civil liability in accordance with chapter 7, title 39, Idaho Code.

39 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
40 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
41 July 1, 2026.