

**Smart Heart Sports Coalition**  
**Template Legislative/Regulator Language**

**SYNOPSIS:**

“Smart Heart Law” requires schools, public and private, that sponsor athletics to provide an AED on site at or that is retrievable and able to be placed on a victim within 3 minutes of each athlete venue for practices, games, or other athletic events. Additionally, it requires that all coaches obtain and maintain training for CPR, AED use and first aid. Finally, it requires that every school or organization that sponsors athletics to develop a venue specific and written athletics emergency action plan for serious or life-threatening athletics related emergencies that is reviewed and rehearsed annually by all parties involved.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

AN ACT concerning AED access, coaching CPR/AED training and emergency action planning, designated “Smart Heart Law,” of the [enter state name] Statutes.

1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, beginning on August 1, 2024, every public and private school from grades 9 through 12 shall ensure that:

(1) an automated external defibrillator, as defined in section [###], identified with appropriate signage, is on-site or placed and made available in an unlocked location on school property that is able to be placed on a victim within 3 minutes of each school athletic venue. The AED shall be accessible during the school day and any other time in which a school-sponsored athletic event or team practice, in which pupils of the school are participating;

(2) each defibrillator is tested and maintained according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines and notification is provided to the appropriate first aid, ambulance, or rescue squad or other appropriate emergency medical services provider regarding the defibrillator, the type acquired, and its location; and

(3) all coaches obtain and maintain training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, first aid and the use of the automatic external defibrillator. Certification in CPR and AED use shall be consistent with national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines.

2. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, beginning on September 1, 2024, every public and private school from grades 9 through 12 shall establish, review and annually rehearse an athletics emergency action plan (AEAP) for responding to serious or life-threatening injury for students participating in sports or other athletic activities. Each plan shall integrate nationally recognized, evidence-based core elements or standards. The plan shall be memorialized as a written document, specific to the activity site and shall be developed in consultation with local emergency medical services personnel. The plan shall be distributed to all athletics staff members, any additionally identified school personnel, as well as healthcare professionals who may provide medical services during games, practices or other events.

b. The athletics emergency action plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following components:

(1) identification of the activity address or venue;

(2) identification of personnel and their responsibilities in each school who will be responsible for carrying out the athletics emergency action plan and designated chain of command;

(3) Identification of healthcare professionals who will provide medical care during games, practices, or other events

(4) identification of the equipment and supplies that may be needed to respond to an athletics emergency, including the location of each item;

(5) a description of the proper procedures to be followed after a serious injury occurs including, but not limited to, responding to the injured individual, summoning emergency medical care, assisting emergency responders, and documenting the actions taken during the emergency.

(6) include appropriate contact information for EMS and directions to access the venue

c. The athletics emergency action plan shall be distributed to all athletics staff members, appropriate school personnel, and members of the EAP team and shall be reviewed at least annually, and updated as necessary. The plan shall be rehearsed at least annually in each school by the individuals who will be responsible for executing the plan in an emergency.

3. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, shall adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

4. This act shall take effect for the academic year starting on or after August 2024.

Definitions:

"Athlete" means a young person grade 9-12 who actively participates in an athletic activity, including a sport.

"Athletic activity" means any sport or other athletic activity related to competition, practice, or training exercises.