

1 **Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in Schools**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jerry W Stevenson

House Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill establishes requirements for cardiac emergency response plans in schools.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

- 7
- 8 ▶ defines terms;
 - 9 ▶ requires each school to develop a cardiac emergency response plan;
 - 10 ▶ requires plans to include evidence-based core elements for emergency cardiovascular care;
 - 11 ▶ requires appropriate placement and maintenance of automated external defibrillators
 - 12 (AED);
 - 13 ▶ requires training of appropriate school staff in first aid, CPR, and AED use;
 - 14 ▶ establishes a grant program to aid in implementing cardiac emergency response plans; and
 - 15 ▶ requires the State Board of Education to make rules.

16 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

17 None

18 **Other Special Clauses:**

19 This bill provides a special effective date.

20 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

21 ENACTS:

22 **53G-9-216**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

23 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

24 Section 1. Section **53G-9-216** is enacted to read:

25 **53G-9-216 . Cardiac emergency response plans.**

26 (1) As used in this section:

27 (a) "AED" means automated external defibrillator.

28 (b) "Cardiac emergency response plan" or "CERP" means a plan developed by a school
 29 that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents
 30

- 31 involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar
32 life-threatening emergency while on school grounds.
- 33 (c) "Emergency cardiovascular care" means immediate medical care provided to an
34 individual experiencing a life-threatening cardiovascular emergency.
- 35 (d) "Evidence-based core elements" means practices and standards for emergency
36 cardiovascular care that are:
- 37 (i) recommended by the American Heart Association; or
38 (ii) nationally recognized, evidence-based standards focused on emergency
39 cardiovascular care.
- 40 (e) "High-needs school" means a school:
- 41 (i) designated as a Title I school under 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.; or
42 (ii) where more than 50% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch
43 under the National School Lunch Program.
- 44 (2) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each school within an LEA shall develop a
45 CERP that integrates evidence-based core elements.
- 46 (3) An LEA shall ensure each school's CERP includes:
- 47 (a) appropriate placement of an AED that:
- 48 (i) is determined by the CERP in accordance with guidelines for AED placement that
49 an organization focused on emergency cardiovascular care establishes;
- 50 (ii) is identified with appropriate signage;
- 51 (iii) is on-site at the school or placed on school property in a location that is
52 accessible within three minutes; and
- 53 (iv) is maintained in an unlocked location on school property that enables placement
54 on a victim within three minutes; and
- 55 (b)(i) designation of appropriate school staff to be trained in:
- 56 (A) first aid;
- 57 (B) cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR; and
- 58 (C) AED use that follows evidence-based guidelines; and
- 59 (ii) for the training under Subsection (3)(b)(i), relevant staff to attend the training,
60 which may include:
- 61 (A) an educator;
- 62 (B) a school nurse; or
- 63 (C) an athletic trainer.
- 64 (4)(a) An LEA shall ensure that each AED shall be tested and maintained according to

- 65 the manufacturer's operational guidelines.
- 66 (b) Each school within an LEA shall provide notification to the appropriate first aid,
- 67 ambulance, or rescue squad or other appropriate emergency medical services
- 68 provider regarding the AED, the type acquired, and the AED's location.
- 69 (5)(a) Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board shall distribute grant money
- 70 for implementing a CERP.
- 71 (b) The state board shall ensure grant money under this section be used for activities and
- 72 equipment that further promote CERP preparedness, including:
- 73 (i) the purchase of an AED;
- 74 (ii) AED maintenance, including pads and battery replacement;
- 75 (iii) the purchase of CPR training kits or CPR training for faculty and staff;
- 76 (iv) basic first aid training; and
- 77 (v) educational materials.
- 78 (c) In awarding grants under this section, the state board shall give priority to high-needs
- 79 schools.
- 80 (6) An LEA may accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations designated
- 81 for the purchase of an AED that meets the standards established by the United States
- 82 Food and Drug Administration and for the costs incurred to inspect and maintain an
- 83 AED and train school staff in the use of an AED.
- 84 (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
- 85 state board may make rules to establish:
- 86 (a) grant application and distribution criteria; and
- 87 (b) compliance and monitoring for the requirements described under this section.

88 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

89 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.