

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for its students, employees, and visitors. To provide opportunities for assistance to individuals who experience sudden cardiac arrest on school property, the board authorizes the placement of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in designated locations in schools and other board-owned or operated facilities and at designated events to be accessed by medical practitioners and other trained persons.

To the extent funding, staff, and training are available, the superintendent is authorized to acquire AEDs for use at designated schools and events. The superintendent is further authorized to develop a program to address access to and training, use, and maintenance of AEDs in the school system. All such AEDs and any program developed must comply with the requirements of state and federal law.

The superintendent, in consultation with medical professionals trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED use, shall develop procedures to implement this policy. Procedures must include information regarding:

1. **Medical/healthcare provider oversight:** Choice of AED devices will be made in consultation with a physician licensed by the state of North Carolina. Preference will be given to machines that offer both adult and child settings. The type of AED product must be one that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.
2. **CPR and AED use training for anticipated responders:** Training will be completed in accordance with nationally recognized training programs including those approved and provided by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross. Appropriate records of training will be maintained.
3. **Coordination with the emergency medical services (EMS) system:** Appropriate local EMS officials must be notified of the location and most recent placement of AEDs within a reasonable period of time of placement.
4. **Appropriate device maintenance and testing.**
5. **Placement of AEDs.**

The superintendent or designee shall report to the board on the plan for and actual use of AEDs in the school system. The superintendent shall designate a program coordinator to manage the AED program in the schools.

Nothing in this policy should be construed to require the presence or use of an AED on school property or at school sponsored events, unless otherwise required by law. The board cannot and does not guarantee that an AED or a person trained in its use will be available at any particular school site or school-sponsored event.

The board and its employees expressly reserve all immunities from civil liability which are available to them under state or federal law, including governmental immunity and the statutory immunities set forth in North Carolina General Statutes 90-21.14, 90-21.15, and 115C-375.1 and federal statute 42 U.S.C. 238q.

Legal References: G.S. 90-21.14, -21.15; 115C-375.1; 42 U.S.C. 238q

Cross References: Student Health Services (policy 6120)

Other Resources: *N.C. Emergency Guidelines for Schools*, (NCDPI 2009), available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/resources/nc-emergency-guidelines>; Implementing an AED Program, (American Heart Association 2018), available at <https://cpr.heart.org/-/media/CPR-Files/Training-Programs/AED-Implementation/2022-updates/AED-Guide-1.pdf>

Adopted: February 9, 2015

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