



## **Wharton ISD and American Heart Association Collaborate to Build Lifesaving Skills Across the District**

*Empowering a generation of lifesavers through hands-on training and heart health education*

WHARTON, June 11, 2025. In a powerful step toward creating a heart-safe community, Wharton Independent School District (WISD), in collaboration with the American Heart Association (AHA), has launched a comprehensive CPR education and emergency preparedness initiative. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the delivery of 6 CPR Anytime kits were passed to Wharton ISD.

This initiative is part of a five-step strategy co-designed by WISD and AHA to meet the district's unique needs and resources. The plan includes certifying local champions as CPR instructors and equipping them with the tools to train over 40 staff members across all school levels. By integrating this effort with AHA's Kids Heart Challenge, the program extends its reach to students, families, and the broader community—empowering more individuals with lifesaving skills.

Generous support from the Gulf Coast Medical Foundation and the Mary Louise Dobson Foundation has made it possible to provide essential resources such as CPR kits and automated external defibrillators (AEDs), ensuring the program's sustainability and long-term impact. This collaborative initiative positions Wharton ISD as a model for community-driven cardiac emergency readiness—ensuring that more people are prepared to save a life.



“This collaborative initiative positions Wharton ISD as a model for community-driven cardiac emergency readiness,” said Ashley Avalos, senior development director, school engagement at the American Heart Association. “As someone dedicated to the health and safety of our students, I believe every school must be prepared to respond to a cardiac emergency. Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anywhere—including in our classrooms, gyms, or playgrounds. The difference between life and death in those critical first moments often depends on the presence of a trained bystander ready to act.”

Avalos continued, “That’s why equipping schools with emergency response plans, CPR training, and access to AEDs isn’t just important—it’s essential. Every student, teacher, and staff member deserves to learn and work in an environment that’s prepared to save lives. Together, we can make every school a vital link in the chain of survival.”

For more information on how to support the American Heart Association visit [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

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### ***About the American Heart Association***

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. Dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities, the organization has been a leading source of health information for more than one hundred years. Supported by more than 35 million volunteers globally, we fund groundbreaking research, advocate for the public’s health, and provide critical resources to save and improve lives affected by cardiovascular disease and stroke. By driving breakthroughs and implementing proven solutions in science, policy, and care, we work tirelessly to advance health and transform lives every day. Connect with us on [heart.org](http://heart.org), Facebook, X or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

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