

SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Safety Plan Update & Desha's Law



Monday, December 15, 2025

EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.

Purpose of Desha's Law

- Named in memory of a WNY student who died from sudden cardiac arrest at school
- Aims to ensure every public school in NY has a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP)
- Signed into law July 2025 by Governor Kathy Hochul in partnership with advocates like Damar Hamlin



Pre-existing Requirements & Legislation

- (2002) NY Education Law and Public Health Law required all public schools to become a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) provider
 - Requires schools provide AED and training on its use
- (2022) Dominic Murray Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act
 - Requires schools screen athletes prior to participation in sports, and train athletic staff on signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest



Pre-existing Requirements for AEDs

- District is required to provide sufficient number of AED units
- AED units must be clearly marked and accessible
- AEDs must be maintained per manufacturer and health standards



Pre-existing Requirements Training & Education

- CPR/AED training must through an approved and accredited organization such as the Red Cross or American Heart Association
- At least One staff member shall be trained in CPR/AED and be present at all approved school activities/including after school events, extra curricular activities and interscholastic sports



Desha's Law New Requirements

- Cardiac Emergency Response Plan must be included in both:
 - District-wide school safety plans
 - Building-level emergency response plans
- Annual Training on “signs and symptoms of cardiac arrest” must be provided to:
 - All staff
 - All students



Cardiac Emergency Response Plan

Cardiac Emergency Response Annex

All staff know where Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) are located and how to call for help. AED cases should contain supplies for first responders including gloves, CPR barrier device, and scissors. Staff outside or off school property should always carry communication devices and emergency contact information for assistance.

Warning signs or signs of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) or similar life-threatening emergency:

- Racing heart, palpitations, or irregular heartbeat
- Dizziness, lightheadedness, or extreme fatigue with exercise
- Chest pain or discomfort with exercise
- Excessive shortness of breath during exercise
- Excessive unexpected fatigue during or after exercise
- History of recurrent fainting or unusual seizures
- Sudden collapse or “passes out”
- Not responsive
- Abnormal breathing
- No pulse

Steps to take in school building, on school grounds, or at athletic events

- 1. Ensure scene safety**
 - Survey the area to protect victim, yourself, and anyone else nearby (e.g., remove victim from water or unstable surface to a stable level surface, cease athletic play, move bystanders from area etc.)
- 2. Shout for help. If alone, call for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) via 911 or in accordance with district policy and obtain Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)**
 - Follow 911 emergency dispatcher’s instructions.
 - Call for any Certified Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) school personnel and notify administration or designee*.
- 3. CPR by CPR/AED certified school personnel**
 - Check for breathing- if none or person gasping begin CPR immediately.
- 4. Defibrillation by CPR/AED certified school personnel**
 - Use an AED to restore the heart to its normal rhythm.
- 5. EMS assumes lead upon arrival.**
 - If a student is the person needing care, school administration or designee should accompany the student to the hospital until the parent/guardian arrives.
 - Be prepared to download the school’s AED data onto flash drive to provide to EMS to give to the emergency department’s physician.
- 6. School administration or designee notifies**
 - parent/guardian or staff member’s emergency contact in accordance with district policy.
- 7. Document**
 - In accordance with district policy, document event including observations, all steps taken and by whom, who was notified, and information reported to EMS.
- 8. Hold a post event debriefing**

*Emergency contact numbers for obtaining help:

Number to call for help in school building
Number to call for help on school grounds
Number to call to notify if SCA occurs at offsite location
Secondary contact number if primary not available

CPR/AED Certified School Personnel

Staff Name	Title	Telephone Number	Location	Availability
				☐ Before School ☐ After School ☐ School Day ☐ Athletic Events ☐ School Events ☐ Other
				☐ Before School ☐ After School ☐ School Day ☐ Athletic Events ☐ School Events ☐ Other
				☐ Before School ☐ After School ☐ School Day ☐ Athletic Events ☐ School Events ☐ Other
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Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Locations

Note: All AEDs should be clearly labeled and stored in appropriate storage containers, cabinets, or go bags/cases.

Number of AEDs needed inside the building and at each athletic practice and event:
AED Locations¹:

¹ AED locations should be noted on building level emergency response plan required school building map in accordance with Commissioner’s regulation 155.17(c)(2)(iii).



30 Day Public Comment Period

- Cardiac Emergency Response Plan will be posted on Website for Public Review
- Comment Period runs December 16, 2025 to January 16, 2026
- Submit Comments Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent
- dfeldmann@sweethomeschools.org
- Board of Education will vote to approve to adopt the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan amendment to the Safety Plan on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.



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Questions...



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