



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

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PRESENTS POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

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Public Act 21-92 An Act Concerning Emergency Action Plans for Interscholastic and Intramural Events

As public school districts across Connecticut prepare to welcome the students for the 2024-25 school year, it will be important to review your **emergency action plan** to respond to serious and life-threatening *sports-related injuries* during interscholastic or intramural events. Especially as the summer weather conditions have brought such high levels of heat and humidity, taking care of our student-athletes and ensuring they receive immediate and appropriate medical care when required is essential.

Public Act 21-92 requires public and private schools to develop and implement these plans by July 1, 2022.

Under the Act, each plan must:

1. Have procedures to follow when a student sustains a serious injury or illness while participating in an interscholastic or intramural athletic event, and
2. Include certain components, such as the staff responsible for implementing the plan.

The Act requires the plan to be developed in consultation with local emergency medical services providers and allied health professionals. In addition, the plan must be reviewed annually, updated as necessary, and annually rehearsed by the implementing staff.

The Act also specifies staff qualifications related to the plan, the method of plan distribution and posting, and that a board of education may accept gifts, grants, or donations for the plan's development and implementation.

The Act requires that each *emergency action plan* include the following:

1. A list of the school employees, coaches, or licensed athletic trainers who will be responsible for implementing the plan and a description of responsibilities for each person;
2. The location or venue where the athletic events occur;
3. A description, including the location of the equipment and supplies available at athletic event sites that will help these people respond to an emergency;

4. The procedures to follow when a student sustains a serious sports-related injury, including;
 - a. responding to the injured student;
 - b. summoning emergency medical care;
 - c. assisting first responders arriving for the student; and
 - d. documenting the actions taken.
5. The protocols to follow during cardiac or respiratory emergencies, including operating an automatic external defibrillator; using cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); or administering medication in accordance with state law on school staff administering medication to students at school athletic events;
6. The protocols to follow when a student shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or is diagnosed with one, in accordance with the state law on concussions, including immediately removing the student from the game;
7. The protocols to follow when a student suffers a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury, which must:
 - a. include instructions based on the level of training of the person implementing the plan;
 - b. meet best practices and state law; and
8. The protocols to follow for heat and cold-related emergencies, which must meet current professional standards.

Under the Act, any school employee, coach, or licensed athletic trainer identified in the emergency action plan must be CPR certified and have completed a first aid course offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the Department of Public Health, a health director, or an organization using Heart Association or Red Cross first aid guidelines.

An important aspect of this Act, and one to which districts may tend to pay less attention has to do with *plan distribution*. The Act requires each board of education to:

1. *Distribute* the plan to all school employees, coaches, and licensed athletic trainers identified in the plan;
2. *Post* it in all athletic facilities and at all sites where interscholastic and intramural athletic events take place; and
3. Make it available on the school district's or school's website.

In developing and implementing the emergency action plans, a school may use existing and appropriate public or private materials, models, personnel, and other resources and accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations, designated for the plan.

While the legislation enacted July 1, 2021, does not require boards of education to adopt a policy to cover this topic, districts are required to develop and implement a plan covering all aspects of the Act. CABE's policy department developed model policy [#5141.72](#), "Student Sports – Emergency Action Plans," to assist districts in creating their plans and provide a heightened level of information, urgency, and accountability to ensure our student-athletes receive the most effective level of care possible. For this reason, this is a "recommended" policy.