

AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDs)

In order to assist individuals who may experience cardiac arrest on school property, the Ledyard Board of Education supports the use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) by trained personnel on school property.

An "automatic external defibrillator" means a device that: (A) is used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart; (B) contains internal decision-making electronics, microcomputers or special software that allows it to interpret physiologic signals, make medical diagnosis and, if necessary, apply therapy; (C) guides the user through the process of using the device by audible or visual prompts; and (D) does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgment in its use.

Personnel Authorized to Use AEDs on School Property

AEDs located within school facilities may be used by a paid or volunteer firefighter or police officer, a member of a ski patrol, a lifeguard, a conservation officer, patrol officer or special police officer of the Department of Environmental Protection or emergency medical service personnel who has been trained in the use of an AED in accordance with the standards set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association.

Employees of the Board, who hold a current certification of training in cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an AED by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association, shall be authorized by the School Medical Advisor and the school nurse to use AEDs installed in school buildings after completion of additional training on the requirements of this policy and its attendant regulations.

Properly trained and authorized school personnel shall only use AEDs in medically appropriate circumstances and in accordance with their training. Even though a Board employee may be trained and authorized to use an AED, that person is not required to render emergency medical assistance with an AED unless such requirement is part of that individual's job description.

“Good Samaritan Law” – Immunity from Liability

A person operating an AED, who, voluntarily and gratuitously and other than in the ordinary course of such person's employment or practice, renders emergency medical or professional assistance to a person in need thereof, shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such person in rendering the emergency care, which may constitute ordinary negligence. With respect to the use of an AED, the immunity shall only apply to acts or omissions involving the use of an AED in the rendering of emergency care. A person or entity that provides or maintains an AED shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of the person or entity in providing or maintaining the AED, which may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, willful or wanton negligence.

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Responsibilities

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Medical Advisor and the Administrative Supervisor of Ledyard Regional Visiting Nurses, shall develop regulations for the maintenance of the AEDs and the training of school personnel authorized to use AEDs. Such regulations shall comply with all applicable state statutes and laws.

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Medical Advisor, the school nurse, and the building Principal, shall approve the location of AEDs in each school building as AEDs are made available to the school system. AEDs shall be located so as to be readily accessible during the school day as well as during after hours events on school property that are open to the public.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

19a-175. Definitions.

19a-197b. Training standards for the use of automatic external defibrillators.

52-557b. "Good samaritan law". Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. (as revised by Public Act 09-59)

Public Act 09-94 – *An Act Concerning the Availability of Automatic External Defibrillators in Schools*

Policy adopted: February 2, 2005
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