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**HOUSE BILL 1863**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Rule, Thai, Stonier, Parshley, Goodman, Pollet, and Zahn

Read first time 02/06/25. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting cardiac emergency response plans in  
2 schools; amending RCW 28A.300.471; adding new sections to chapter  
3 28A.300 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.600 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, each school district  
8 must ensure that each school within the district develops a cardiac  
9 emergency response plan to prepare for persons who may experience a  
10 cardiac arrest on school property inclusive of attendees and  
11 participants in athletic practices or events.

12 (2) School officials shall work with local emergency service  
13 providers to integrate the cardiac emergency response plan into the  
14 community's emergency service response protocols.

15 (3)(a) Each cardiac emergency response plan required by this  
16 section must include evidence-based core elements, such as those  
17 recommended by the American heart association or other national  
18 science organization.

19 (b) Each cardiac emergency response plan must:

1 (i) Designate a cardiac emergency response team comprised of  
2 school staff and inclusive of coaches, school nurses, athletic  
3 trainers, teachers, counselors, and administrators;

4 (ii) Establish procedures for activating the cardiac emergency  
5 response team if a person experiences cardiac arrest on school  
6 property;

7 (iii) Designate locations on school property for the installation  
8 of automated external defibrillators in accordance with guidance set  
9 by the American heart association or other national science  
10 organization, with the goal that they can be placed on a person  
11 experiencing cardiac arrest on school property or at athletic venues  
12 where practices or competitions are held within three minutes of  
13 school staff becoming aware of the cardiac arrest;

14 (iv) Establish a regular maintenance schedule, in accordance with  
15 the manufacturer's operational guidelines, for automated external  
16 defibrillators installed on school property;

17 (v) Establish a regular schedule, consistent with the American  
18 heart association or other national science organization guidelines,  
19 for cardiac emergency response team training in cardiopulmonary  
20 resuscitation, first aid, and automated external defibrillator use;

21 (vi) Establish dates for annual drills in cardiopulmonary  
22 resuscitation, first aid, and automated external defibrillator use;

23 (vii) Describe the coordination and integration of the cardiac  
24 emergency response plan with local emergency service providers; and

25 (viii) Establish procedures for responding to incidents of  
26 cardiac arrest that occur off-campus during school-sponsored events.

27 (4) Staff from each school shall review and update their cardiac  
28 emergency response plan at least annually.

29 (5) School staff training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first  
30 aid, and automated external defibrillator use must follow evidence-  
31 based guidelines set by the American heart association or other  
32 national science organization.

33 (6) Locations for automated external defibrillator installations  
34 must be determined by the cardiac emergency response plan and in  
35 accordance with guidance set by the American heart association or  
36 other national science organization. Each automated external  
37 defibrillator must be identified with clear signage and stored in an  
38 unlocked location on school property.

39 (7) Each automated external defibrillator must be tested and  
40 maintained by the school according to the manufacturer's operational

1 guidelines and local emergency service providers must be notified of  
2 its type and location.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
6 establish and administer a grant program to help public schools  
7 develop cardiac emergency response plans and implementation  
8 procedures, staff training, and automated external defibrillator  
9 purchases and maintenance in accordance with section 1 of this act.  
10 In awarding grants under this section to school districts for use in  
11 public schools, the office of the superintendent of public  
12 instruction shall prioritize schools where 50 percent or more of the  
13 enrolled students, averaged over the previous three years before  
14 applying for a grant, are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

15 (2) School districts and public schools may accept gifts, grants,  
16 and donations, including in-kind donations intended for: (a) The  
17 purchase of an automated external defibrillator that meets the  
18 standards established by the United States food and drug  
19 administration; (b) costs incurred to inspect and maintain the  
20 defibrillator; and (c) costs incurred to train staff in the use of  
21 the defibrillator.

22 (3) This section governs school operation and management under  
23 RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020 and applies to charter schools  
24 established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal education  
25 compact schools subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW to the same extent as  
26 it applies to school districts.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.300.471 and 2013 c 181 s 2 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) An automated external defibrillator is often a critical  
30 component in the chain of survival for a cardiac arrest victim.

31 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
32 consultation with school districts and stakeholder groups, shall  
33 develop guidance for a medical emergency response and automated  
34 external defibrillator program for high schools.

35 (3) The medical emergency response and automated external  
36 defibrillator program must comply with current evidence-based  
37 guidance from the American heart association or other national  
38 science organization.

1 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
2 consultation with the department of health, shall assist districts in  
3 carrying out a program under this section, including providing  
4 guidelines and advice for seeking grants, including grants  
5 administered under section 2 of this act, for the purchase of  
6 automated external defibrillators or seeking donations of automated  
7 external defibrillators. The superintendent may coordinate with local  
8 health districts or other organizations in seeking grants and  
9 donations for this purpose.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, all athletic coaches for  
13 activities governed by the Washington interscholastic activities  
14 association or other comparable voluntary nonprofit entity shall  
15 obtain and maintain training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first  
16 aid, and the use of an automated external defibrillator.  
17 Certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external  
18 defibrillator use must be consistent with national evidence-based  
19 emergency cardiovascular care guidelines.

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