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**HOUSE BILL 2549**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Rule, Stonier, Parshley, Pollet, Leavitt, Donaghy, Scott, and Obras

Read first time 01/16/26. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to cardiac emergency response plans in schools;  
2 and adding a new section to chapter 28A.210 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, each school district  
7 shall develop a cardiac emergency response plan for each school  
8 within the district and for each athletic facility on a school  
9 campus, to prepare for persons who may experience a cardiac arrest on  
10 school property, including participants and attendees of athletic  
11 practices and events.

12 (2) School officials shall work with local emergency service  
13 providers to integrate the cardiac emergency response plans 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 evidence-based  
18 organization focused on emergency cardiovascular care.

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 for the installation of automated  
8 external defibrillators throughout campus, including at each campus  
9 athletic facility, with the goal of being able to place an automated  
10 external defibrillator on a person within three minutes of becoming  
11 aware of a cardiac arrest;

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

15 (v) Establish a regular schedule, consistent with guidelines set  
16 by the American heart association or other evidence-based  
17 organization focused on emergency cardiovascular care, for cardiac  
18 emergency response team training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation,  
19 first aid, and automated external defibrillator use;

20 (vi) Establish dates, at least annually, when the plan will be  
21 rehearsed in each school by the individuals who will be responsible  
22 for executing the plan in an emergency;

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 evidence-based organization focused on emergency cardiovascular care.

33 (6) Locations for automated external defibrillator installations  
34 must be determined by the cardiac emergency response plan and in  
35 accordance with guidelines set by the American heart association or  
36 other evidence-based organization focused on emergency cardiovascular  
37 care. Each automated external defibrillator must be identified with  
38 clear signage and stored in an unlocked location on school property  
39 that is easily accessible during the school day and during school-

1 sponsored athletic events or team practices in which pupils of the  
2 school are participating.

3 (7) Each automated external defibrillator must be tested and  
4 maintained by the school according to the manufacturer's operational  
5 guidelines and local emergency service providers must be notified of  
6 its type and location.

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