

Defibrillator Policy

I. Definitions - *For purposes of this policy only, the following definitions shall apply:*

- A. “Sudden Cardiac Arrest” means a significant life-threatening event when a person’s heart stops or fails to produce a pulse.
- B. “Defibrillation” means administering an electrical impulse to an individual in order to stop ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia.
- C. “Automated External Defibrillator” means an automated computerized medical device programmed to analyze heart rhythm, recognize rhythms that require defibrillation, and provide visual and voice instructions for the device operator, including, if indicated, to push the button to deliver an electric shock.
- D. “Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Response Team” means the individuals at any Waterbury Public School facility where an AED(s) is located who have been trained to use an AED in response to a sudden cardiac arrest situation.
- E. “AED Response Team Member” means a person who has successfully completed a course of instruction in accordance with the standards of a nationally recognized organization and meeting Waterbury Public Schools training requirements.
- F. “Emergency Medical System” means a professional community responder agency for emergency events that provides medical assistance and/or ambulance transport. The Waterbury Public Schools utilize the 911 Emergency Response Systems.

II. The Structure of the Waterbury Public School Systems Automated External Defibrillator Program - *The Waterbury Public School Systems AED program shall include the following roles which have the duties and responsibilities described below.*

A. Supervisor of Health and Physical Education

The Waterbury Board of Education shall authorize the Supervisor of Health and Physical Education whose duties and responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. General oversight over the AED Program.
2. Will ensure that medical oversight, AED implementation/maintenance, training and coordination with EMS will comply with manufacturer guidelines and American Heart Association recommendations.
3. Working as a liaison with the Waterbury Health Department and the AED program sites to establish AED response to protocols.
4. Recruiting Waterbury Public School Department personnel as volunteer AED responders for their site.

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5. Maintaining a database of AED trained staff members throughout the district by AED program site.
6. Coordinating the formulation of procedures for collecting, recording and filing AED incident reports.
7. Recommending and facilitating the system-wide implementation and maintenance of a training program for volunteer Waterbury Public School Department personnel in AED emergency medical care that meets all necessary requirements.
8. Facilitating the purchase and distribution of unit maintenance items, including batteries and replacement pads, to program sites.
9. To insure uniformity in the quality of AEDs installed and used in Waterbury Public School facilities, all additional unit purchases must first be reviewed by the Supervisor of Health and Physical Education to ensure that the units meet necessary specifications.

B. AED Program Site: Principals

Consistency and uniformity in the implementation of the AED Program is important to its mission of providing lifesaving emergency care to SCA victims at Waterbury Public School sites. Principals agree to cooperate with the Supervisor of Health and Physical Education toward this outcome. Each AED program site principal shall:

1. Designate one volunteer, preferably the school nurse, to serve as the school site reporter.
2. Act as the AED program site liaison to the Supervisor of Health and Physical Education.
3. The principal will provide the Supervisor of Health and Physical Education with the names of the AED-trained individuals at their own school.
4. School Principal and School Nurse will perform monthly manual examinations of the AED unit to secure that the unit is in “ready to use” condition.
5. At the beginning of each academic school year the unit will be checked in its entirety for “ready to use” condition by the school nurse and school principal.

C. AED Program Site: School Nurses

School nurses at program sites agree to cooperate with the Principals and the Supervisor of Health and Physical Education in order to:

1. School Principal and School Nurse will establish a location for the physical custody of the AED unit that complies with the manufacturer’s guidelines, American Heart Association recommendations and applicable best practices.

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2. School Principal and School Nurse will perform monthly manual examinations of the AED unit to secure that the unit is in ready to use condition.
3. Report AED unit maintenance issues to the Principal and/or Supervisor of Health and Physical Education as needed.
4. Complete and submit the standard Post-Incident and 911 reports within three (3) school days to the Principal and the Supervisor of Health and Physical Education.
5. At the beginning of each academic school year the unit will be checked in its entirety for ready to use condition by the school nurse and school principal.

III. AED Emergency Response Protocols - *The Training Program should include, but not be limited to:*

- a. Initial assessment in response to a SCA situation.
- b. AED response plan and immediate 911 contact to alert Emergency Medical Services personnel.
- c. CPR procedures.
- d. AED application.
- e. AED Heart Rhythm Analysis.
- f. AED Defibrillation Safety Precautions.
- g. AED Shock Sequence.
- h. No shock advised procedure.
- i. Patient monitoring.
- j. Transfer of patient care to EMS.
- k. Post-incident procedures.

IV. Indemnification - *School officials have extensive protection from personal liability under Connecticut Law. Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-235 provides that Waterbury School District must indemnify and hold school officials harmless from civil liability when acting within the scope of their duties.*

Similarly, city nurses that work in the public schools have extensive protection from personal liability under Connecticut Law. Connecticut General Statutes 7-101a provides that municipalities must indemnify and hold municipal employees, including nurses, harmless from civil liability when acting within the scope of their duties.