



## Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Automated External Defibrillators Frequently Asked Questions

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance and resources to schools as they take steps to implement the requirements of Indiana Code 20-34-4-8.

Number	Question	Answer
1	<b>Where can I find a copy of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) Law?</b>	The law is listed under IC 20-34-8 and can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
2	<b>Have there been changes to this law?</b>	Yes, during the 2023 legislative session, <a href="#">Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 369</a> was passed which added additional requirements and recommendations to IC 20-34-8.
3	<b>What are the new requirements?</b>	SEA 369 Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sudden cardiac arrest training will now include training on the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).</li><li>• Drama and musical leaders will now be required to complete sudden cardiac arrest and AED training.</li><li>• As required by state law, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will be conducting a statewide survey of school corporations, charter schools, and state accredited non-public schools to determine the number of AEDs owned and school policies currently in effect as of July 1, 2023.</li></ul>
4	<b>What are the new recommendations?</b>	SEA 369 Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes new AED language that is recommended but not required:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Encourages schools to develop a venue specific emergency action plan which includes detailed instructions regarding how to respond to sudden cardiac arrest and indicates the location of the nearest AED at the venue.</li><li>○ Encourages coaches and marching band, drama, and musical leaders to ensure that an operational AED is present at each event in which they are providing services.</li><li>○ Allows that one AED may be shared by two or more events if the events occur at the same time and are in close proximity to each other. (See question 5 below regarding AED Placement).</li><li>○ Encourages coaches and leaders to inform others of the location of the AEDs.</li><li>○ Recommends that the venue specific emergency action plan:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Ensures that AEDs are properly maintained.</li><li>■ Establishes a goal of responding within three minutes to a sudden cardiac arrest occurring within the venue.</li><li>■ Establishes dates and times to conduct performance drills.</li><li>■ Distributes, shares, and posts the plan for participants.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Allows schools to apply for a grant under IC 10-21-1-2(a)(1)(C)(viii) to purchase an AED if the school develops a venue specific emergency action plan for sudden cardiac arrest.</li></ul>



<p>5</p>	<p><b>What are items to consider when developing an AED Program?</b></p>	<p>Items to Consider Include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Number of AEDs</b> - Effective AED programs are designed to deliver a shock to the victim within three minutes of collapse. When deciding where to place AEDs, schools are encouraged to use the three-minute response time as a guideline to help determine the number and placement of AEDs (one and a half minutes to obtain an AED and one and a half minutes to return to the victim).</li> <li>2. <b>Placement of AEDs</b> - Schools should determine if there are places onsite where the incidence of sudden cardiac arrest may be higher. AEDs should be as visible and easily accessible as possible with considerations for both indoor and outdoor events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some areas to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Near or within a gymnasium or workout area</li> <li>● In the cafeteria</li> <li>● Centrally located where most staff, students, and visitors gather</li> <li>● At or near the front office</li> <li>● Near trained responders such as the school nurse or athletic trainer</li> <li>● Near stairways and exit doors</li> <li>● Near quick access to playgrounds and athletic fields</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The placement of an AED is venue specific as each building configuration is unique. For assistance in determining the number, placement, or type of AED to purchase, please contact your local EMS.</p> </li> <li>3. <b>Training</b> - Specific training is mandated for coaches and marching band, drama, and music leaders. Schools should also ensure staff know their role in a cardiac arrest situation and conduct drills for SCA emergencies.</li> <li>4. <b>Maintenance of AED Equipment</b> – A specific person should be assigned to perform regular maintenance checks following the manufacturer’s instructions. Pads and batteries should be monitored for expiration dates.</li> <li>5. <b>Documentation</b> - Certificates of completion for the required staff trainings should be kept by the school. Schools should have an SCA emergency plan in place that has been communicated to staff and students. AEDs should be clearly marked with signage and directions to their locations.</li> </ol>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Are there resources available to assist schools with developing an AED Program?</b></p>	<p>Yes, Project Adam is a nationwide SCA initiative created to assist schools with implementing a SCA program. <a href="#">The Project Adam website</a> contains numerous AED resources including a SCA toolkit, sample signage, sample policy statement, sample emergency response plan, and sample SCA drill information. Specific questions or requests for assistance can be sent to <a href="mailto:projectadam@iuhealth.org">projectadam@iuhealth.org</a>.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Does this law apply to all schools?</b></p>	<p>This law applies to public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited non-public schools.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><b>Does this law apply to all students?</b></p>	<p>This law applies to students, under the age of 18, who participate in an athletic contest or competition, including cheerleading and marching band.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><b>What type of documents are required in this law?</b></p>	<p>Before participating in an athletic, cheerleading, or marching band activity, students and parents must be given information sheets describing the symptoms of SCA and electrocardiogram testing. Additionally, parents and students must sign and return a form to the student’s coach or marching band leader acknowledging receipt and review of the SCA information.</p>



# Indiana Department of Education

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10	<b>Are there sample forms available for schools to utilize?</b>	<p>Yes, sample forms have been developed by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and can be found on the <a href="#">IDOE Sudden Cardiac Arrest Webpage</a>. Schools are not required to use these sample forms but are provided for schools to use if they wish.</p> <p>Schools are welcome to develop and use their own forms as long as these forms meet the requirements of the law.</p>
11	<b>Who can remove a student who is experiencing symptoms from an activity?</b>	<p>A game official, coach from the student’s athletic or cheerleading activity, licensed athletic trainer, physical assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed physician, or marching band leader may remove a student from practice who is experiencing symptoms of SCA.</p> <p>If during the initial assessment, the student exhibits any of the emergency signs associated with SCA, emergency response protocols must be initiated. If during the initial assessment the student does not exhibit any of the emergency signs associated with SCA but does exhibit any (even one) of the signs or symptoms of SCA, SCA should be suspected. At that time, the student should be removed from the activity, the student’s parents should be notified of the student’s symptoms, the SCA information sheet should be discussed, and the student should not participate in the activity until a parent’s verbal permission has been obtained. Even if the student has been assessed by an onsite healthcare professional, the student may not return to the activity until the parents’ verbal permission has been obtained.</p>
12	<b>Does a student have to be evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider before being allowed to return to participation?</b>	<p>No, the law requires that the parent must be notified of the student’s symptoms, the SCA information sheet must be discussed, and the student may return to participation only if the parent has given verbal permission.</p> <p>Verbal permission must be replaced with written permission within 24 hours. Sample forms to document verbal permission and the parents’ written permission can be found on the <a href="#">IDOE Sudden Cardiac Arrest Webpage</a>.</p>
13	<b>What should be done if a parent does not send written permission to the coach or leader?</b>	<p>Within 24 hours of receiving verbal permission from the parent, written permission must be obtained. The student should not be allowed to participate, practice, or compete in an activity until the parent has provided the school with written permission for the student to return to the activity.</p>
14	<b>What should be done if a student continues to exhibit symptoms of SCA after they have been returned to play upon written release by a parent?</b>	<p>The student should be removed from participation each time he/she exhibits symptoms of SCA and should not return to participation without verbal and then written follow-up permission to participate from the parents. Schools are encouraged to develop a school policy that addresses these procedures and describes what the school policy will be for students that exhibit these symptoms more than once. (For example, a school policy could state that a school will only accept one written return to play release note from a parent, and if the student continues to exhibit signs and symptoms of SCA, the parents’ written release would need to be replaced by a healthcare provider’s written release.)</p>
15	<b>What are the requirements of the education course?</b>	<p>The law states that no individual may coach or lead an athletic, cheerleading, marching band, drama, or musical activity until the individual completes a sudden cardiac arrest training course offered by a provider approved by the IDOE. A list of the approved providers can be found on the <a href="#">IDOE Sudden Cardiac Arrest Webpage</a>.</p>



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16	<b>Is there any liability protection for individuals included in this law?</b>	Yes, any individual who complies with the requirements of the law and provides coaching or leadership services in good faith is not personally liable for damages in a civil action except for an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.
17	<b>Summary of Resources</b>	SCA Law and Resources - <a href="#">IDOE Sudden Cardiac Arrest Webpage</a> AED Grant Information - <a href="#">Secured School Safety Grant Program</a> AED Program Development and Resources - <a href="#">Project Adam</a>

For additional information, please email Jolene Bracale at [jbracale@doe.in.gov](mailto:jbracale@doe.in.gov).

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