

By: Paxton

S.B. No. 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the availability and instruction on the use of automated external defibrillators and a cardiac emergency response plan at public schools and certain private schools in this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 22.902(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Each school nurse, assistant school nurse, athletic coach or sponsor, physical education instructor, marching band director, cheerleading coach, and any other school employee specified by the commissioner and each student who serves as an athletic trainer must participate in the instruction in the use of an automated external defibrillator. A person described by this subsection must receive and maintain certification in the use of an automated external defibrillator from ~~[the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or]~~ a ~~[similar]~~ nationally recognized, guidelines-based organization focused on emergency cardiovascular care ~~[association]~~.

SECTION 2. Section 38.017(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each school district shall make available at each campus in the district the number of ~~[at least one]~~ automated external defibrillators ~~[defibrillator]~~, as defined by Section 779.001, Health and Safety Code, necessary for a defibrillator to be

1 accessible from any location on campus so that a person may provide  
2 emergency care to a person in cardiac arrest within three minutes of  
3 being notified of a possible medical emergency involving cardiac  
4 arrest. A campus defibrillator must be readily available during  
5 any University Interscholastic League athletic competition held on  
6 the campus. In determining the placement of [~~location at which to~~  
7 ~~store~~] a campus defibrillator, the principal of the campus shall  
8 consider guidelines from an organization with expertise in  
9 emergency cardiovascular care and ensure that the defibrillator is  
10 clearly marked [~~the primary location on campus where students~~  
11 ~~engage in athletic activities~~].

12 SECTION 3. Section 38.018, Education Code, is amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 38.018. [~~PROCEDURES REGARDING RESPONSE TO~~] CARDIAC  
15 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN [~~ARREST~~]. (a) Each school district and  
16 private school shall develop and implement a cardiac emergency  
17 response plan that establishes safety procedures for a district or  
18 school employee or other appropriate personnel [~~student~~] to follow  
19 in responding to a medical emergency involving cardiac arrest on  
20 district or school grounds [~~, including the appropriate response~~  
21 ~~time in administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation, using an~~  
22 ~~automated external defibrillator, as defined by Section 779.001,~~  
23 ~~Health and Safety Code, or calling a local emergency medical~~  
24 ~~services provider~~].

25 (b) In developing the plan, the district or school shall:  
26 (1) work directly with local emergency services  
27 providers to integrate the plan with the providers' protocols; and

1           (2) incorporate evidence-based practices of a  
2 nationally recognized, guidelines-based organization focused on  
3 emergency cardiovascular care.

4           (c) The plan must include at a minimum:

5                 (1) the establishment of a cardiac emergency response  
6 team;

7                 (2) procedures for activating the cardiac emergency  
8 response team in response to a medical emergency involving cardiac  
9 arrest;

10                (3) the dissemination of the plan throughout each  
11 district or school campus;

12                (4) ongoing training in first aid, cardiopulmonary  
13 resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, as  
14 defined by Section 779.001, Health and Safety Code, using  
15 evidence-based guidelines, for appropriate district or school  
16 employees, including school coaches, school nurses, and athletic  
17 trainers;

18                (5) annual practice drills in responding to a medical  
19 emergency involving cardiac arrest; and

20                (6) annual review, evaluation, and, if necessary,  
21 modification of the plan.

22           (d) A private school is required to develop a cardiac  
23 emergency response plan ~~[safety procedures]~~ under this section only  
24 if the school receives an automated external defibrillator from the  
25 agency or receives funding from the agency to purchase or lease an  
26 automated external defibrillator.

27           (e) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to

1 award grants to districts and schools to assist with the  
2 implementation of a cardiac emergency response plan. In awarding  
3 grants, the commissioner shall prioritize districts or schools at  
4 which at least 50 percent of enrolled students are educationally  
5 disadvantaged.

6       SECTION 4. Not later than the first instructional day of the  
7 2027-2028 school year, each public school and private school to  
8 which Sections 38.017 and 38.018, Education Code, as amended by  
9 this Act, apply shall make available the number of automated  
10 external defibrillators and implement a cardiac emergency response  
11 plan as required by those sections.

12       SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.