STATE OF NEW YORK

785

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring schools safety plans to include a cardiac emergency response plan

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraphs h, l and m of subdivision 2 of section 2801-a of the education law, paragraph h as amended by section 1 of part B of chapter 54 of the laws of 2016 and paragraphs l and m as amended by chapter 30 of the laws of 2021, are amended and a new paragraph n is added to read as follows:

h. policies and procedures for annual school safety training for staff and students; provided that the district must certify to the commissioner that all staff have undergone annual training on the emergency response plan, and that the school safety training include components on violence prevention [~~and~~], mental health **and sudden cardiac arrest**, such training may be implemented and conducted in conjunction with existing professional development and training; provided however that new employees hired after the start of the school year shall receive training within thirty days of such hire or as part of a district's existing new hire training program, whichever is sooner;

l. the designation of the superintendent, or superintendent's designee, as the district chief emergency officer responsible for coordinating communication between school staff and law enforcement and first responders, and ensuring staff understanding of the district-level safety plan. The chief emergency officer shall also be responsible for ensuring the completion and yearly updating of building-level emergency response plans; [~~and~~]

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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m. protocols for responding to a declared state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease that are substantially consistent with the provisions of section twenty-seven-c of the labor law[~~.~~]; and

n. policies and procedures relating to sudden cardiac arrest. The district-wide school safety team shall develop and implement a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the use of appropriate personnel to respond to incidents involving any individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency on any school site owned or operated by a school or at a location of a school sponsored event, including but not limited to all athletic programs. Each school with an athletic department or organized athletic program shall develop an additional cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while attending or participating in an athletic practice or event while on school grounds that are venue specific. Each plan shall integrate nationally recognized, evidence-based core elements, such as those recommended by the American Heart Association.

(i) Cardiac emergency response plans shall include CPR training of appropriate members of building-level response team members; including but not limited to school personnel, coaches, school nurses and athletic trainers. Each plan shall include provisions for clearly marking, making accessible and maintaining the automated external defibrillator (AED) consistent with guidelines set by the American Heart Association, or other nationally recognized guidelines focused on emergency cardiovascular care and current requirements of the public access defibrillation provider pursuant to sections three thousand-a and three thousand-b of the public health law and section nine hundred seventeen of this chapter. School officials shall work directly with local emergency service providers to integrate the cardiac emergency response plan into the community's EMS responder protocols. For the purpose of school athletic events and facilities, an AED shall be clearly marked and easily accessible in an unlocked location at each school athletic venue and event. The AED shall be accessible during the school day and any school-sponsored athletic event or team practice, in which pupils of the school are participating. An AED should be placed on a victim within three minutes of the onset of sudden cardiac arrest.

(ii) District-wide school safety teams shall implement first-aid, CPR, and AED training for members of the building-level school safety team and any other appropriate school staff determined by the cardiac emergency response plan, including but not limited to licensed coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers.

(iii) District-wide school safety teams shall consider, as part of its reviews of the comprehensive district-wide safety plan, annual practice drills and review of the cardiac emergency response plan.

(iv) As used in this paragraph:

(A) "cardiac emergency response plan" means a written document that establishes the specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in any setting, including but not limited to a school, community organization, workplace, or sports facility; and

(B) "sudden cardiac arrest" occurs when a person's heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly.

§ 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 2801-a of the education law, as amended by section 1 of part B of chapter 54 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

a. policies and procedures for response to emergency situations, such as those requiring evacuation, sheltering, [~~and~~] lock-down**, and sudden cardiac arrest**. These policies shall include, at a minimum, evacuation routes, shelter sites, and procedures for addressing medical needs, transportation and emergency notification of parents and guardians;

§ 2-a. Paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 2801-a of the education law, as amended by chapter 596 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

a. policies and procedures for response to emergency situations including extreme heat conditions, such as those requiring evacuation, sheltering, [~~and~~] lock-down**, and sudden cardiac arrest**. These policies shall include, at a minimum, evacuation routes, shelter sites, and procedures for addressing medical needs, transportation and emergency notification of parents and guardians;

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that the amendments to paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 2801-a of the education law made by section two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as chapter 596 of the laws of 2024, takes effect. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.