

Wissahickon School
 District
 Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002

SECTION: OPERATIONS

**TITLE: Automated External
 Defibrillators (AED)**

FIRST READING: August 18, 2003
 SECOND READING: September 8, 2003
 ADOPTED: September 8, 2003
 REVISED:

I. **Purpose**

The Board of School Directors is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment. The purpose of this policy shall be to safeguard the health and well being of pupils and their families, District employees, and the general public by being prepared to treat victims who experience Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The AED is only to be applied to victims who are unconscious, without a pulse, and not breathing. The AED will analyze the heart rhythm and advise the operator with voice prompts if a shockable rhythm is detected. If a shockable rhythm is detected, the AED will charge to the appropriate energy level and advise the operator to deliver a shock.

This policy is based on evidence that the most effective time for defibrillation is within three minutes of cardiac arrest. Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the leading cause of death in the United States, affecting people of all ages. Many victims of SCA have no history of cardiac problems and experience an arrest without any previous warning. Ninety five percent of SCA victims will die without treatment. Early defibrillation increases the survival rate from 5% to 50%.

II. **Definitions**

Sudden Cardiac Arrest – A malfunction of the heart’s electrical system that causes the heart muscle to fibrillate and then suddenly stop. The person has no pulse, becomes unconscious, and stops breathing.

Defibrillation – An electric shock delivered to correct a life threatening arrhythmia.

Automated External Defibrillator – A small portable device that analyzes the heart rhythm, determining if there is a rhythm that would respond favorably to a shock. Upon auditory prompting, voltage is delivered through electrodes to the SCA victim by a trained responder.

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Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation – The combination of rescue breathing and chest compressions for a victim whose breathing and heart have stopped.

Trained Responder – Someone trained in CPR and the use of an AED.

School Emergency Response Team – Members of the school district who are trained responders to a school emergency.

III. **Authority**

This policy shall apply to all persons in all school buildings, the Central Office and the Office of Transportation.

IV. **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Superintendent or designee shall have the responsibility of working with the nursing coordinator and the District's medical director for coordination and use of the AEDs.

The AEDs are owned by the Wissahickon School District and shall be housed in secure and accessible locations throughout the school buildings, Central Office, and the office of transportation.

All members of the District's School Emergency Response Team (SERT) who have successfully completed training or any trained volunteer responder who has successfully completed an approved CPR and AED training program and has a current successful completion card may use the AED under the direction of the District's medical director.

Information regarding a particular patient shall not be divulged to anyone other than those involved in the care of the patient without the patient's consent or under the order of the court. All AED providers shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the inadvertent release of confidential information.

All SERT members will be reviewed on an annual basis for competency in responding to a cardiac emergency including CPR and the use of the AED.

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Administrative Guidelines

- An emergency response first aid kit will be kept in the vicinity of the AED or, in the case of the school building, in the nurse's office.
- AED units will be checked each week by the nursing personnel.
- If the AED is used on a SCA victim, an incident report will be completed.
- An evaluation of the SERT reaction will be scheduled.
- The following resources will be used to establish and maintain an AED program:
 - Pennsylvania Public Defibrillation Law Summary
 - American Red Cross and American Heart Association Guidelines
 - Medical emergency action plans
 - Universal precautions for exposure to blood borne pathogens
 - Good Samaritan Act providing immunity from liability exclusions
 - The District's medical director will serve as the medical advisor of the AED program, including reviewing and approving the guidelines for the use of the AED
 - Inservice will be available to trained staff for additional reinforcement of skills

District Medical Director Responsibilities

- Providing medical direction for use of the AED.
- Writing a prescription for use of the AED.
- Reviewing and approving guidelines for emergency procedures related to the use of an AED and CPR.
- Evaluation of post-event review forms.

