

HOUSE BILL 256

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL SAFETY; REQUIRING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL  
DEFIBRILLATORS TO BE AVAILABLE DURING ALL SCHOOL ATHLETIC  
ACTIVITIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-33-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2025,  
Chapter 129, Section 3) is amended to read:

"22-33-6. CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN--AUTOMATED  
EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.--

A. Each school shall develop and implement a  
cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate  
use of school personnel who are to respond to incidents  
involving a person experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest or a  
similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds or  
during a school athletic activity. Each cardiac emergency

1 response plan shall:

2 (1) be developed and implemented using core  
3 elements that are nationally recognized and evidence-based;

4 (2) identify specific school personnel who  
5 will take action when a person experiences a sudden cardiac  
6 arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency;

7 (3) establish protocols for school personnel  
8 identified by the cardiac emergency response plan to follow  
9 when a person experiences a sudden cardiac arrest or a similar  
10 life-threatening emergency;

11 (4) determine ~~[an]~~ appropriate ~~[location]~~  
12 locations for ~~[an]~~ automated external ~~[defibrillator]~~  
13 defibrillators to be installed or made available;

14 (5) provide for routine maintenance of the  
15 automated external defibrillator; and

16 (6) be updated when necessary to be consistent  
17 with evidence-based guidelines.

18 B. Every school in the state shall install an  
19 automated external defibrillator. Installed automated external  
20 defibrillators shall be maintained and tested according to the  
21 manufacturer's operational guidelines.

22 C. An automated external defibrillator shall be  
23 clearly marked and easily accessible during each school  
24 athletic activity.

25 ~~[C. No later than January 1, 2026]~~ D. The

1 department shall adopt and promulgate rules for the training of  
2 school employees on the use of automated external  
3 defibrillators in a manner consistent with standards adopted by  
4 the American heart association.

5 ~~[D-]~~ E. The requirements of Subsections A and B of  
6 this section shall be fulfilled by all:

7 (1) public non-charter high schools no later  
8 than the 2026-2027 school year; and

9 (2) elementary schools, middle schools,  
10 charter schools and private schools no later than the 2027-2028  
11 school year.

12 F. As used in this section, "school athletic  
13 activity" means a sport or activity organized by a school or  
14 school district that involves a physical game or competition  
15 against another team, club or entity or practice or preparation  
16 for the physical game or competition."