

HOUSE BILL 256

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pamelya Herndon and Yanira Gurrola and D. Wonda Johnson
and Patricia Roybal Caballero

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

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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

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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."