

Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP)

The MDE Office of Healthy Schools and the American Heart Association are working together to assist Mississippi schools with developing CERP plans to reduce the number of deaths associated with cardiac arrest in schools and athletic environments.

What is a cardiac emergency response plan?

A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) is a written document that establishes the steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in any setting – a school, community organization, workplace, or sports facility.

Why is CERP required?

Senate Bill 2349 was passed by the MS Legislature and signed into law by Governor Reeves in 2024. The implementation phase began on July 1, 2024. Plans are required for schools and athletic programs.

What should be included in the plan?

*CPR – or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation – is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can double or triple chances of survival after cardiac arrest.

*AED - An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a lightweight, portable device. It delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart when it detects an abnormal rhythm and changes the rhythm back to normal.

*Activities on how schools will train, certify, and implement the CERP.

*Collaboration with local emergency service providers

Where can I find tools to develop a CERP?

Resources are available on the Office of Healthy Schools webpage under the What's new section:

[Healthy Schools | The Mississippi Department of Education \(mdek12.org\)](https://www.mdek12.org)