

## **SUDDEN CARDIAC EVENTS / AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS**

The Old Tappan Board of Education is committed to ensuring the health of the school community. Consistent with this commitment, the Board will have automated external defibrillators (AED) located throughout the district for the purpose of responding to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in students, staff members, or other adults on school premises. Sudden cardiac arrest is a condition that occurs when the electrical impulses of the human heart malfunction causing a disturbance in the heart's electrical rhythm. The AED is only to be used on victims who are unconscious, without pulse and without signs of circulation or normal breathing. It will then analyze the heart rhythm and advise the operator 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.

The Board of Education shall establish and implement an emergency action plan for responding to a sudden cardiac event including, but not limited to, an event in which the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) may be necessary. The plan shall include:

1. A list of five or more school employees who hold current certification from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other training program recognized by the Department of Health and Senior Services in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of a defibrillator. The list shall be kept current.
2. Detailed procedures on responding to a sudden cardiac event including, but not limited to:
  - a. Identification of persons responsible for responding,
  - b. Calling 911,
  - c. Starting cardio-pulmonary resuscitation,
  - d. Retrieving and using the AED,
  - e. Assisting the emergency responders.

### Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) shall be located in every school in the district for the purpose of responding to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in students, staff members, or other adults on school premises. The AEDs shall be accessible and unlocked throughout the school day and at any other time when a school-sponsored athletic event or team practice in which District students are involved is taking place. The AEDs shall be located within reasonable proximity of the gym or athletic fields. The AED is only to be used on victims who are unconscious, without pulse and without signs of circulation or normal breathing. It will then analyze the heart rhythm and advise the operator 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. District responders' use of an AED should not replace the care provided by emergency services providers, but is meant to provide a lifesaving bridge during the critical minutes it takes for such personnel to arrive.

The Board shall ensure that:

1. Prior to any person using an AED, he or she shall hold a current certification from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other training program recognized by the Department of Health and Senior Services in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of a defibrillator or be licensed as a paramedic, emergency medical technician-D or a first responder-D by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

## **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS**

**FILE CODE: 3516.1  
Policy**

### Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) (continued)

2. The AED is maintained and tested according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines.
3. The appropriate first aid, ambulance, rescue squad or other appropriate emergency medical services provider has been notified that the Board has acquired the AED(s), the type of AED(s) acquired and where the AED(s) are located.
4. The school physician has been provided with documentation that a protocol is in place to comply with N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-23 et seq.
5. The Board is registered with the Department of Health and Human Services as an entity that possesses an AED.

Any person who renders emergency care or treatment by the use of a defibrillator or supervises such care or treatment and, who has complied with N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-23, shall be immune from civil liability for any personal injury as a result of such care or treatment, or as a result of any acts or omissions by the person or entity in providing, rendering or supervising the emergency care or treatment.

The Superintendent is directed to develop procedures for the use of AEDs, the training of persons in the use of AEDs, and the maintenance of AEDs.

**Legal References:** N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-23 et seq.  
N.J.S.A. 26:2K-39 et seq.  
N.J.A.C. 2A:62A-25  
N.J.A.C. 2A:62A-27  
N.J.A.C. 8:41A-1.1 et seq

### **Key Words**

Defibrillators, Automated External Defibrillators (AED), Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, Sudden Cardiac Event

Approved:                      November 19, 2012  
Revised: