

HEALTH POLICY
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AED (Automated External Defibrillator) on site at all sporting events

Purpose: Approximately 325,000 Americans suffer sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) each year and more of 95% of them die before reaching the hospital. In Rhode Island, an estimated 1,000 residents will die of SCA annually. Official statistics have not been gathered on children, however experts estimate about 300 deaths caused by SCA occur for people under the age of 21, about 1/10 percent (.1%). This means at least one person under the age of 21, most likely a student, will die due to an athletics related SCA every year in Rhode Island. If defibrillation is performed within 5 to 7 minutes, chances of survival are increased by 49%. Every minute without defibrillation reduces the chance for survival by 7 to 10 %, per House Bill # 7275, if enacted will take place August 2016.

Procedure

For any instance when an AED is used, Emergency 911 must be called to continue the cardiac chain of survival.

The Director, Special Ed Director, Athletic Director, all coaches, the school nurse, and staff leading an after school program, as well as many day staff are trained in CPR, AED and first aid through the American Red Cross. Only trained staff are to use defibrillator equipment. AEDs are monitored monthly for battery operation. Battery and defibrillator pads are replaced according to manufacturer recommendations.

Policy: The Rhode Island School for the Deaf currently has 4 AEDs on site. three Philips HeartStart Defibrillators. Locations of the HeartStart Defibrillators include: 1) gym lobby, 2) main lobby and 3) preschool/elementary lobby. A fourth AED, Cardiac Science, uses both voice and text for accessibility to the deaf and hard of hearing. This AED is used for all sporting practices, games and tournaments. Should more than one sporting event occur simultaneously, one team will use the Cardiac Science AED and the second team will take the AED from the gym lobby.