



Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPs)

- Every school should have a [medical emergency response plan](#) (or a emergency action plan) in place, which includes a plan for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and an automated external defibrillator (AED) in schools.

The SADS Foundation supports the following recommendations from American Heart Association to develop and adopt Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in schools:

1. The AHA recommends that all schools have a CERP in place, containing minimum, evidence-based core elements:
 - Establishing a cardiac emergency response team
 - Activating the team in response to a SCA
 - Implementing AED placement and routine maintenance within the school (similar to fire extinguisher protocols)
 - Disseminating the plan throughout the school campus
 - Maintaining ongoing staff training in CPR/AED use
 - Practicing using drills (akin to fire and lockdown drills)
 - Integrating local EMS with the plan
 - Ongoing and annual review and evaluation of the plan
2. The AHA recommends that state laws, regulations, and related educational standards require schools to develop and maintain a CERP and that appropriations are made available to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of CERPs in schools. Where related appropriations are lacking, CERPs should still be in effect, using indirect sources of community or EMS-related support.

CERP Model Plans

Two sample CERP models may be downloaded from [StopSADS.org](#) for use by schools.

The complete CERP policy statement by the National Association of School Nurses is also available on [StopSADS.org](#).

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4527 South 2300 East, Ste 104 • Salt Lake City, UT 84117 • 801-272-3023 • [www.StopSADS.org](#)

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