



# Illinois State Board of Education

February 2013

Guidance Document 13-13

## Safety Education: Training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for Students in Grades 6-8 (PA 97-714)

*This document is intended to provide non-regulatory guidance on the subject matter listed above.  
For specific questions, please contact the person(s) identified in the document.*

---

Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

Printed by AFL-CIO (AFSCME Local #288 and IFSOE Local #3236) Employees

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Directors of Special Education  
Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Elizabeth Hanselman  
Assistant Superintendent for Special Education

**DATE:** February 2013

**SUBJECT:** Safety Education: Training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for Students in Grades 6-8  
[Public Act (PA) 97-0714]

Consistent with the applicable provisions of the Illinois Statute on Statutes, this document provides guidance to local school authorities to implement this act. Please note that this guidance is intended to respond to various questions that have been received from the field regarding PA 97-0714 and is neither intended to be an exhaustive review of the act nor is it intended to be legal advice.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **1. Where is this law found in the School Code?**

Public Act 97-0714 (formerly HB 5114) amends the School Code by adding training in CPR and the use of an AED for students in grades 6 through 8 as an option in the school's safety education curriculum (105 ILCS 5/27-17). CPR training is among the topics schools may teach in Safety Education (105 ILCS 5/27-24.2). Visit the following link at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/PDF/097-0714.pdf> to access a copy of this legislation.

#### **2. When did this law take effect?**

This legislation became effective on June 28, 2012, the date it was signed into law.

#### **3. Are schools required to provide CPR training for students?**

Schools may, but are not required to, educate students in CPR and the use of an AED. However, a student in middle school who has been trained in CPR and AED may be in a better position to save a life in school, at home or in the community.

**4. Where can materials be found that are suitable to teach this grade level?**

The training in CPR and in the use of an AED can be met by students' watching a free video on those subjects. A recommended, free video is available through the Northwestern University Department of Emergency Medicine. The video has the endorsement of the American Heart Association and other community health agencies and can be found at one of the links below.

[www.ccares.northwestern.edu](http://www.ccares.northwestern.edu)

[http://www.isbe.net/school\\_health.htm#cpr](http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm#cpr)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyuURBOqrE&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyuURBOqrE&feature=player_embedded)

**5. May the school use other materials to train students in CPR and AED?**

Schools may use whatever materials they choose, as this training is not specifically required and a specific curriculum is not required to be used.

For further information, please contact Jessica Gerdes, RN, Principal Consultant, School Nurse / Health Issues. She can be reached at 312-814-5560 in the Chicago office of the Illinois State Board of Education, Special Education Services Division.