

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL 54

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP  
CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS; REQUIRING EVERY HIGH SCHOOL  
TO INSTALL AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-33-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2014,  
Chapter 50, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-33-1. SHORT TITLE.--~~[Sections 1 through 4 of this  
act]~~ Chapter 22, Article 33 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the  
"Emergency Medication in Schools Act"."

SECTION 2. Section 22-33-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2014,  
Chapter 50, Section 2) is amended to read:

"22-33-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Emergency  
Medication in Schools Act:

A. "albuterol" includes albuterol or another

1 inhaled bronchodilator, as recommended by the department of  
2 health, for the treatment of respiratory distress;

3 B. "albuterol aerosol canister" means a portable  
4 drug delivery device packaged with multiple premeasured doses  
5 of albuterol;

6 C. "anaphylaxis" or "anaphylactic reaction" means a  
7 sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening whole-body  
8 allergic reaction;

9 D. "automated external defibrillator" means a  
10 medical device heart monitor and defibrillator that:

11 (1) has received approval of its premarket  
12 modification filed pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 360(k), from the  
13 United States food and drug administration;

14 (2) is capable of recognizing cardiac arrest  
15 that will respond to defibrillation, ventricular fibrillation  
16 or rapid ventricular tachycardia and is capable of determining  
17 whether defibrillation should be performed; and

18 (3) upon determining that defibrillation  
19 should be performed, automatically charges and is capable of  
20 delivering an electrical impulse to an individual's heart;

21 [~~D.~~] E. "emergency medication" means albuterol or  
22 epinephrine;

23 [~~E.~~] F. "epinephrine" includes epinephrine or  
24 another medication, as recommended by the department of health,  
25 used to treat anaphylaxis until the immediate arrival of

1 emergency medical system responders;

2           ~~[F.]~~ G. "epinephrine auto-injector" means a  
3 portable, disposable drug delivery device that contains a  
4 premeasured single dose of epinephrine;

5           ~~[G.]~~ H. "governing body" includes a governing body  
6 of a private school;

7           ~~[H.]~~ I. "health care practitioner" means a person  
8 authorized by the state to prescribe emergency medication;

9           ~~[I.]~~ J. "respiratory distress" includes impaired  
10 oxygenation of the blood or impaired ventilation of the  
11 respiratory system;

12           ~~[J.]~~ K. "school" means a public school, charter  
13 school or private school;

14           ~~[K.]~~ L. "spacer" means a holding chamber that is  
15 used to optimize the delivery of albuterol to a person's lungs;

16           ~~[L.]~~ M. "stock supply" means an appropriate  
17 quantity of emergency medication, as recommended by the  
18 department of health; and

19           ~~[M.]~~ N. "trained personnel" means a school  
20 employee, agent or volunteer who has completed epinephrine  
21 administration training documented by the school nurse, school  
22 principal or school leader and approved by the department of  
23 health and who has been designated by the school principal or  
24 school leader to administer epinephrine on a voluntary basis  
25 outside of the scope of employment."

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1           SECTION 3. A new section of the Emergency Medication in  
2 Schools Act is enacted to read:

3           "[NEW MATERIAL] CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN--AUTOMATED  
4 EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.--

5           A. Each school shall develop and implement a  
6 cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate  
7 use of school personnel who are to respond to incidents  
8 involving a person experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest or a  
9 similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds.

10 Each cardiac emergency response plan shall:

11                       (1) be developed and implemented using  
12 evidence-based guidelines;

13                       (2) identify specific school personnel who  
14 will take action when a person experiences a sudden cardiac  
15 arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency;

16                       (3) establish protocols for school personnel  
17 identified by the cardiac emergency response plan to follow  
18 when a person experiences a sudden cardiac arrest or a similar  
19 life-threatening emergency;

20                       (4) determine an appropriate location for an  
21 automated external defibrillator to be installed;

22                       (5) provide for routine maintenance of the  
23 automated external defibrillator; and

24                       (6) be updated when necessary to be consistent  
25 with evidence-based guidelines.

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1           B. No later than the beginning of the 2026-2027  
2 school year, every high school in the state shall install an  
3 automated external defibrillator. Installed automated external  
4 defibrillators shall be maintained and tested according to the  
5 manufacturer's operational guidelines.

6           C. No later than January 1, 2026, the department  
7 shall adopt and promulgate rules for the training of high  
8 school employees on the use of automated external  
9 defibrillators in a manner consistent with standards adopted by  
10 the American heart association.

11           D. The requirements of Subsection A of this section  
12 shall apply:

13                   (1) to all public non-charter high schools  
14 beginning in the 2025-2026 school year; and

15                   (2) all elementary schools, middle schools,  
16 charter schools and private schools beginning in the 2026-2027  
17 school year."

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~