



CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS **IN SCHOOLS**

Empowering a Nation of Lifesavers™



What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- ▶ Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly.
- ▶ An electrical malfunction in the heart causes an arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat.
- ▶ In seconds, a person becomes unresponsive and cannot breathe.
- ▶ Death occurs within minutes if the person does not receive treatment.



Cardiac Arrest Is a Leading Cause of Death

Cardiac arrest can happen anywhere, to anyone, at any age.

356,000+

CARDIAC ARRESTS

occur outside of a hospital
annually in the U.S.

AMONG CHILDREN

23,000

experience cardiac arrest
outside of a hospital

40%

OF PEOPLE

get the immediate help
that they need



Heart Disease & Heart Attack Risk in Nevada

- ▶ Per 100,000 people, Nevada has a higher percentage of people with heart disease than most states.
- ▶ Statewide, Eureka, Nye, and Esmeralda counties have the highest rates of heart disease per 100,000 residents.



Did You Know?

Cardiac arrest can be reversed if lifesaving care is administered within a few minutes.

- ▶ CPR, if performed immediately, can **DOUBLE OR TRIPLE** a person's chance of survival.
- ▶ In schools with AEDs, approximately **70% OF CHILDREN** survive cardiac arrest – that's **7X** the overall survival rate for children.



That's Where CERPs Come In

- ▶ What is a CERP?

It's a written document that establishes specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in school settings and ensures that school responders are trained on how to execute them.

- ▶ A CERP can be stand-alone guidelines or merged with a school's existing medical emergency response plans.



Why Schools?

- ▶ Schools are a nucleus for community events. Parents and community members are often at schools for plays, concerts, or athletic events.
- ▶ Shared use agreements also allow communities to regularly access schools to vote, exercise, host group meetings, and more.

49.5 Million
students are
enrolled in U.S.
public schools

3 Million
teachers are
in the public
school system



CERPs Save Lives!

- ▶ CERPs more than **DOUBLE survival rates from cardiac arrest** by empowering people to take action and dial 911, start CPR, and use an AED.
- ▶ We need CERPs in **every school and athletic event/facility**.
- ▶ CERPs should also be integrated into a community's local EMS responder protocols.



Policy Recommendation- Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in Nevada Schools

The American Heart Association proposes that Nevada schools be required to adopt cardiac event crisis response plans.

- ▶ NRS 388.229- Crisis, Emergency, or Suicide Response Plans