



# CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

IN SCHOOLS

Each year, more than 356,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of a hospital in the U.S., about 10% of people survive. That's because only about 40% get the immediate help they need before emergency responders arrive.

**You do not have to be trained as a first responder to save a life.**

## What is a CERP or an athletic EAP?

A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) is a written document that establishes specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in school settings. It can be stand-alone guidelines or merged with a school's existing medical emergency response plans or athletic Emergency Action Plans (EAP). An athletic EAP is a written document indicating the preparations and on-site emergency response for any type of catastrophic sports injury in the pre-hospital setting. Plans should be venue specific, posted at key locations throughout the school and athletic facilities and practiced regularly.

The safety of students, school staff, and visitors can be enhanced when school CERP/EAP teams are trained and empowered to administer lifesaving care until emergency medical services arrive.



## Empowering a Nation of Lifesavers™

The American Heart Association is working to turn bystanders into lifesavers, so that in the time of cardiac emergency anyone, anywhere is prepared and empowered to become a vital link in the chain of survival and provide CPR.

### THAT MEANS:

- ▶ Ensuring every school and athletic event/facility has a CERP/EAP in place.
- ▶ Working directly with local emergency service providers to integrate the CERP/EAP into the community's EMS responder protocols.



**SUPPORT S.2079/H.7027** to strengthen cardiac arrest preparedness in school buildings and at school athletic venues and events.

## Did You Know?

### 23,000 CHILDREN

experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year in the U.S.

### 40%

are sports related.

CERPs can **MORE THAN DOUBLE SURVIVAL RATES** from cardiac arrest by empowering people nearby to take action and:



In schools with AEDs, **70% OF CHILDREN** survive cardiac arrest. That's **7x** the overall survival rate for children.