



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY12234

TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Elizabeth R. Berlin

SUBJECT: Instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the Use of Automated External Defibrillators

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SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

According to Education Law §305(52), as added by Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2014, the Commissioner of Education must make a recommendation to the Board of Regents regarding a potential new mandate for required instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in senior high schools.

Background Information

During the 2014 legislative session, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law Chapter 417, which amended Education Law §305 to require the Commissioner to make a recommendation to the Board of Regents regarding a potential new mandate for required instruction in CPR and the use of AEDs in senior high schools.

Education Law §305(52), which took effect on October 21, 2014, requires that, prior to making this recommendation to the Board of Regents, the Commissioner must seek the recommendations of teachers, school administrators, educators, and others

with educational expertise in such curriculum, as well as comments from parents, students, and other interested parties.

In addition, the Department must consider the fiscal impact of this mandate on the State and school districts, the amount of instructional time such curriculum would require and whether such time would detract from other mandated courses of study, and any additional factors the Commissioner deems relevant.

Since 1999, Education Law §804-c has authorized school districts to provide CPR instruction as part of the health education curriculum. In addition to the requirement that all teachers of health education are certified to teach health, persons providing CPR instruction must possess valid certification in the performance and teaching of CPR. School districts that choose to offer CPR instruction under §804-c are required to provide necessary facilities, time, learning aids, and curricular resource materials to support such course study.

Education Law §804-d requires that senior high schools in which CPR instruction is provided pursuant to Education Law §804-c must include instruction regarding the correct use of AEDs. Individuals providing instruction in the correct use of AEDs must possess valid certification by a nationally recognized organization or the State emergency medical services council offering certification in the operation of an AED and in its instruction.

In addition, the New York State Learning Standards for Health and Family (Standard 2: Commencement Health Education) provides that: “Students will demonstrate personally and socially responsible behaviors. They will care for and respect themselves and others. They will recognize threats to the environment and offer appropriate strategies to minimize them.” It states that meeting this Standard is evident when, among other activities, students “use universal precautions and apply first aid, CPR, and other emergency procedures appropriately.”

Hands-Only CPR Instruction

The American Heart Association and the American Red Cross have established a program for instruction in CPR and awareness in the use of AEDs. This program uses the most current Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update Guidelines for CPR and incorporates the use of hands-on practicing (compressions) to support instruction. This program can be delivered in one or two class periods. A teacher is not required to be an authorized CPR/AED instructor to provide the training because it does not result in a course completion card being earned. A CPR in Schools training kit can be purchased for \$599, which includes inflatable mannequins, mats, DVDs, and a hand pump.

If this instruction were mandated, it would cost an average-sized district (approximately 3,000 students) approximately \$3,054 for initial implementation (including purchase of the kit, classroom instruction, and teacher professional development) and approximately \$1,392 annually, thereafter. The approximate cost for

all New York State public high schools to begin implementing this mandate would be approximately \$2,699,736, and approximately \$1,230,528 annually, thereafter.

Surveys and Analysis

As required by Education Law §305(52), Department staff sought feedback on this potential mandate from teachers, school administrators, educators, parents, students, and other interested parties prior to making a recommendation to the Board.

First, Department staff developed a survey for BOCES and the Big 5 City School Districts to determine current practices across the State regarding CPR instruction. We received information from a total of 474 districts, revealing that 14% of the responding districts offer CPR as an elective and that 21% of the responding districts require CPR instruction. These districts reported the cost of this instruction ranged from \$1,000 to \$11,600 per year. The remaining 65% of responding districts reported that they do not offer CPR instruction.

In addition to the BOCES and Big 5 City School District survey, the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance worked with Department staff to develop a survey for the field in accordance with Education Law §305(52) (see <https://www.research.net/s/CPRLegislation>). The public was invited to provide feedback on the CPR mandate, and the survey was available for a period of 3 weeks. The survey was completed by 777 people across the State, summarized as follows:

- Geographic distribution:
 - 20% Mid-Hudson Valley
 - 18% Western New York
 - 15% North Country/Adirondacks
 - 12% Central New York
 - 9% New York City
 - 8% Long Island
 - 7% Capital District
 - 6% Lower Hudson Valley
 - 5% Southern Tier

- Professional distribution:
 - 38% Teachers
 - 30% District or School Administrators (Superintendents, Principals)
 - 6% Curriculum Directors-Physical Education/Health Education
 - 6% Parents
 - 20% Other

- When asked if they agreed with mandated CPR instruction for high school graduation:
 - 35% Strongly agreed
 - 33% Somewhat agreed
 - 11% Minimally agreed
 - 21% Disagreed

- When asked what course of study should offer CPR:
 - 61% Health class
 - 33% Physical Education class
 - 6% Other

- 72% agreed that if “Hands Only” CPR/AED instruction were mandated, it would impact the district’s budget.

The majority of responders expressed the challenges of implementing and monitoring such a requirement. There are also field concerns related to the costs of initiating and sustaining the mandate, including initial and ongoing professional development.

Recommendation

The Department has sought feedback regarding this potential mandate from teachers, school administrators, parents, students, and other interested parties. Although a majority of survey responders agreed to varying degrees that CPR/AED instruction is important, the field expressed concern that implementation of this mandate would present fiscal challenges to districts through the purchase of equipment, as well as the provision of professional development and classroom instruction.

Current New York State law already allows for CPR/AED instruction in an educational setting, and CPR/AED instruction is encouraged by current New York State learning standards.

In general, the Department recommends that curriculum decisions, such as whether to offer CPR/AED instruction, be made at the local school district level rather than through a statewide mandate. Since CPR/AED affects matters of life and death, the Department recommends the Board consider an exception to this general policy. However, the Department also recommends that because curriculum is, has been, and should remain a local determination, the policy of opposing similar legislation that would mandate specific curriculum in the future remains in effect.