CARDIAC EMERGENCIES

Code **EBCA** *Adopted*

Florence School District Three recognizes that from time to time it may become necessary for school personnel to promptly intervene when a student or staff member is experiencing a sudden cardiac or life-threatening emergency to help sustain life until emergency medical services arrive on scene.

The superintendent or is/her designee will develop a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) to ensure the proper handling of cardiac or similar life-threatening emergencies occurring on school grounds or during school-sponsored athletic practices or events.

The CERP will include the criteria established the state board of education and will include, at a minimum, the following:

- a designated school-level cardiac emergency response team
- procedures for activating the cardiac emergency response team
- placement and routine maintenance of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) within the district schools and at each off site athletic event
- ongoing CPR and AED training for designated staff
- periodic CERP practice drills
- annual review and evaluation of the CERP

Automated External Defibrillators

An AED is a portable electronic device designed to deliver a predetermined electrical shock through the chest wall to the heart of an individual experiencing life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia. It is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation (VF) and is capable of determining if defibrillation should be performed. The AED will guide the user with audible or visual prompts and does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgement in its use. It should be applied only to individuals who are unconscious, not breathing formally, and showing no signs of circulation.

The use of AEDs in the district's schools will follow district guidelines developed to meet the requirements of the South Carolina Automated External Defibrillator Act and the State Board of Education.

Legal References:

A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
   1. Section 44-76-10, et seq. – Automated External Defibrillator Act.
   2. Section 59-17-155 – Automated External Defibrillator programs in high schools.
   3. Section 59-17-165 – Smart Heart Act, cardiac response plans in schools.