



CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS **IN SCHOOLS**

Empowering a Nation of Lifesavers™

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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



9 out of 10

NORTH CAROLINIANS
experiencing cardiac arrest
outside of hospital ***did not***
survive.¹

Cardiac Arrest in Our Schools

- ▶ *13 children, staff, and visitors needed an AED and experienced cardiac arrest within NC public schools in the 2023-2024 school year.*
- ▶ In Schools with AEDs 70% of children survive cardiac arrest. That's 7X GREATER than the general survival rate.
- ▶ Cardiac arrest in schools is more likely to happen to adults than children (Teachers, cafeteria workers, custodial staff, parents, coaches, administrators, etc.)



That's Where CERP's 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.



The Smart Heart Act will require all NC public and charter schools to:

- ▶ Adopt and implement cardiac emergency response plans.
- ▶ Strengthen and expand AED placement requirements
- ▶ Require appropriate school staff to obtain training for CPR, AED use, and first aid.

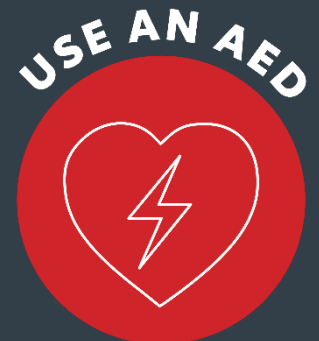
What's required of schools when completing a CERP?

- ▶ Develop a cardiac emergency response team.
- ▶ Activate the cardiac emergency response team during an identified cardiac emergency.
- ▶ Place and maintain AEDs.
- ▶ Communicate the plan throughout the campus.
- ▶ Train response team leads in CPR and AED use.
- ▶ Integrate local EMS with the school.
- ▶ Review and evaluate the plan each year.



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**.
- ▶ CERPs should also be integrated into a community's local EMS responder protocols.



Why Schools?

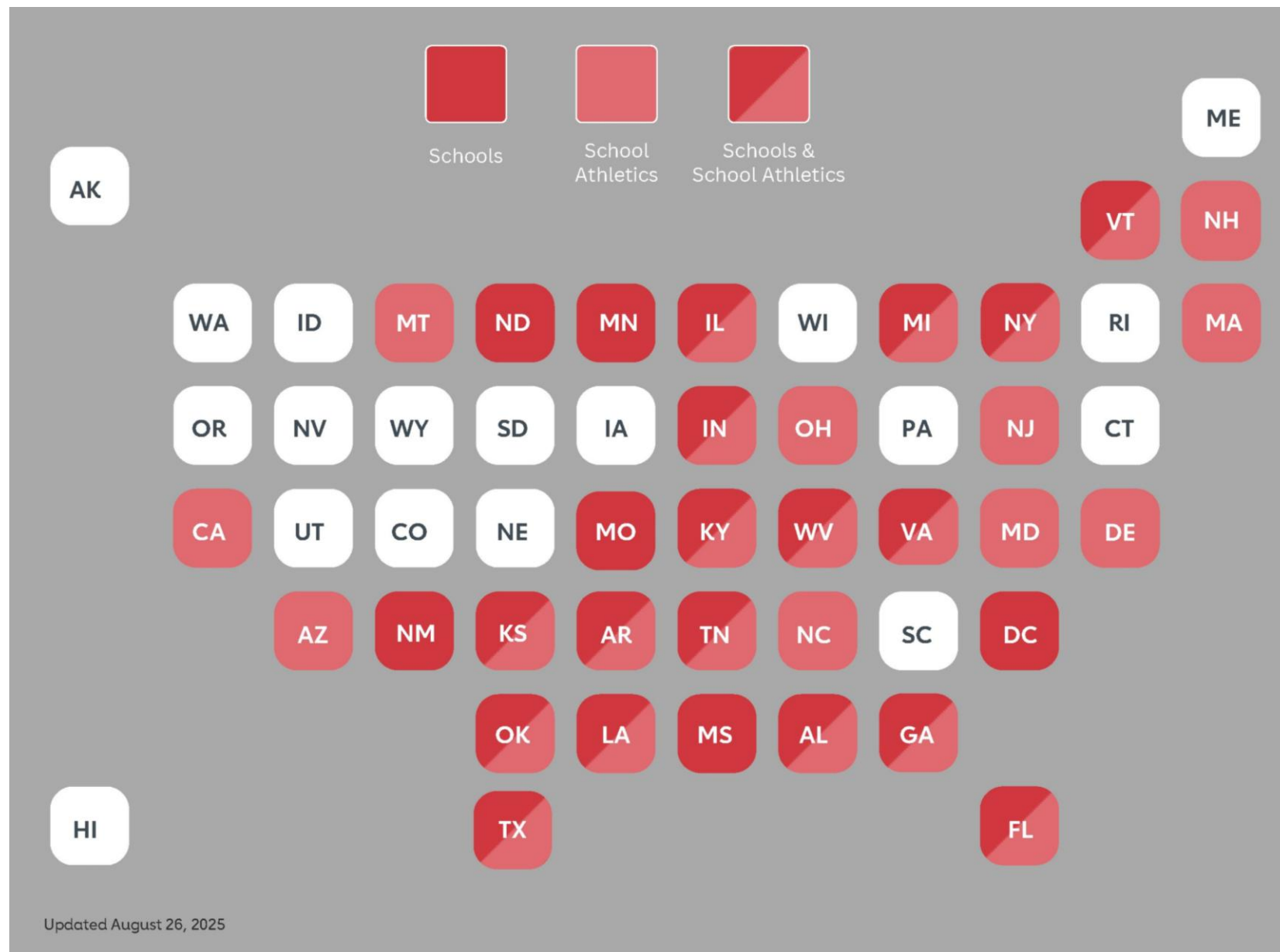
- ▶ *Schools are a nucleus for community events, especially in rural areas.*
Parents and community members are often at schools for plays, concerts, or athletic events.
- ▶ Shared use agreements also allow communities to regularly access schools to vote, exercise, host group meetings, and more.



1.5 Million
students are
enrolled in NC
public schools

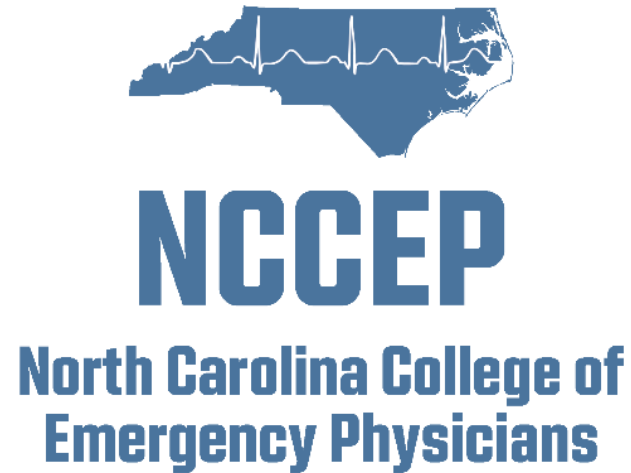
188,000
employees in the
NC public school
system

23 states have passed legislation requiring CERPS in schools.



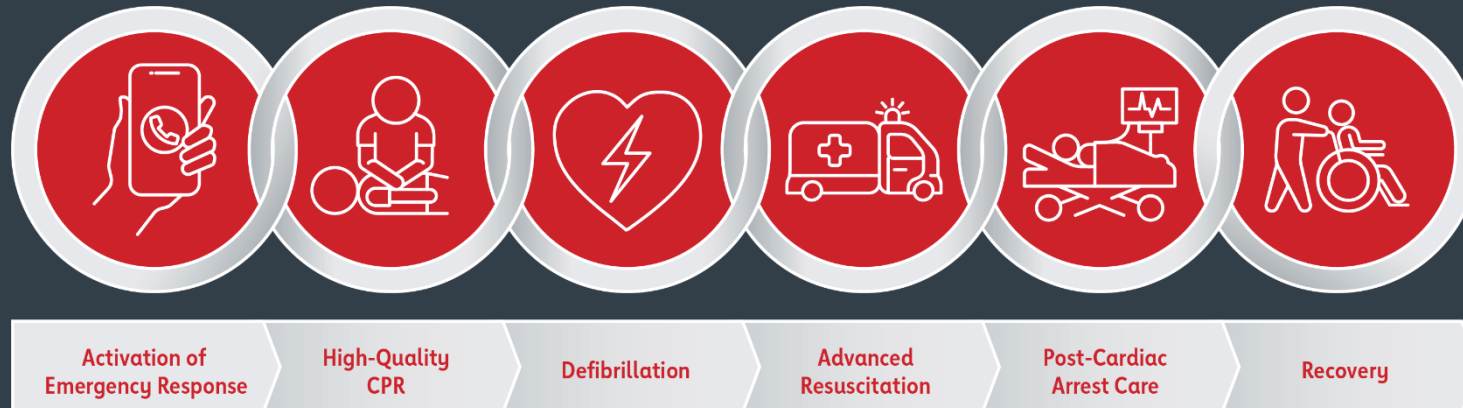


Partner Organizations





Help Us Build a Nation of Lifesavers™ by Endorsing the Smart Heart Act (S278).





Support Medicaid & Expansion



North Carolina Medicaid Population

- 3 million North Carolinians are covered by NC Medicaid.
- 1 in 4 North Carolina children is covered by NC Medicaid.
- 687,000 North Carolinians newly enrolled in Medicaid post Expansion.
- 244,000+ members of rural communities, more than one in three of all newly eligible people, enrolled post Medicaid Expansion.



Why Medicaid is Essential for NC

- ✓ Increased Access to Care
- ✓ Improved Health Outcomes
- ✓ Increased Early Cancer Diagnosis
- ✓ Lower Mortality Rates

