



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders

FROM: Dr. Julie Fowler, Deputy Superintendent
Division of College and Career Readiness

DATE: August 2, 2016

RE: Ronald Rouse's Law: instruction in CPR and AED use awareness in high schools

The Comprehensive Health Education Act [[§59-32-10\(A\)](#)] requires each South Carolina district to provide students instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and awareness of the use of automated external defibrillators at least once during the entire four years of grades nine through twelve as referenced in the excerpt below. School districts must begin complying with the provisions of this act no later than the 2017-18 school year.

At least one time during the entire four years of grades nine through twelve, each student shall receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), which must include, but not be limited to, hands-only CPR and must include awareness in the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). Each school district shall use a program that incorporates the instruction of the psychomotor skills necessary to perform CPR developed by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or an instructional program that is nationally recognized and based on the most current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for CPR and awareness in the use of an AED. Local and statewide school districts shall coordinate with entities that have the experience and necessary equipment for the instruction of CPR and awareness in the use of AEDs; provided, however, that virtual schools may administer the instruction virtually and are exempt from any in-person instructional requirements. A school district must adopt a policy providing a waiver for this requirement for a student absent on the day the instruction occurred, a student with a disability whose individualized education program indicates such student is unable to complete all or a portion of the hands-only CPR requirement, or a student whose parent or guardian completes, in writing, a form approved by the school district opting out of hands-only CPR instruction and AED awareness. The State Board of Education shall incorporate CPR training and AED awareness into the South Carolina Health and Safety Education Curriculum Standards and promulgate regulations to implement this section.

If you have any questions about Ronald Rouse's Law, please contact Dr. Anne Pressley at apressley@ed.sc.gov or (803) 734-8574.