

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Frequently Asked Questions – Healthy Kids Act

May a school district charge a fee for the certification card to the student?

Answer:

Because the certification is optional (the law just requires that each student TAKE a CPR class, not become certified), only if students are told that certification is optional, may a district charge for the card.

How does a school know if a transfer student has had CPR training?

Answer:

If the student cannot satisfactorily provide proof of having completed a CPR course, have the student take another CPR course. What constitutes satisfactory proof is left to local schools to determine.

Does a community person who is brought in by a school or school district to provide CPR training have to have a criminal background check?

Answer:

There is no requirement for this, but neither is there any prohibition against a school or school district imposing such a requirement as a matter of local control.

Must schools directly provide the CPR course as part of the Healthy Kids Act requirements?

Answer:

Schools may accept proof that a student has completed CPR outside of school (for instance, as part of training to be a swim instructor or life guard, EMT, or babysitter). If a school or school district provides the training during the school day, the school or school district may bring in any person from the community or elsewhere who is certified to teach CPR if no one on staff has this certification.

May a parent ask that the parent's child be exempt from the CPR requirement?

Answer:

Yes.

What if a student is physically unable to perform CPR?

Answer:

That student should be excused by school administrators. The requirement is mandated only for "physically able" students, and determining who is physically able is left to the judgment of local school officials.

What is the requirement for CPR in the Healthy Kids Act?

Answer:

Prior to graduating, a student in a school district or accredited nonpublic district must complete a course in CPR. There is no requirement that the student receive a certification for having completed the course. However, the course must include components that one would find in a course that leads to certification.

The purpose is to provide students with the skills to assist a classmate or staff member in cardiac distress. If a course meets that purpose, the DE believes that the course is acceptable. The rules do not permit an infant-only CPR course for the reason that such a course would not equip a student with the skills necessary to assist a peer or adult.