

## **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR POLICY**

### **Introduction**

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a major public health issue in the United States of America. The chance of survival decreases an estimated 10% each minute without defibrillation even when prompt bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is initiated. Cardiac arrest happens when the electrical activity of the heart suddenly becomes uncoordinated and chaotic and the heart stops pumping. It is important to realize that sudden cardiac arrest can happen to young people as well as adults. Prompt CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) can save the lives of these young people.

Sudden cardiac arrest due to blunt trauma to the chest is known as Commotio Cordis. This type of trauma can occur during a sporting event, when the student sustains a chest wall blow and collapses. The initial arrhythmia in the majority of these incidents is ventricular fibrillation. Early defibrillation is the only known therapy. Prompt CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) is intended to maximize the chance of survival based upon the steps taken during the critical minutes before emergency medical services (EMS) providers arrive and assume responsibility for care.

### **Purpose**

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) programs place this invaluable equipment in strategic locations in a community and in the hands of trained lay people who may be in a position to act quickly and save a life. The purpose of this policy is to establish standard operating procedures and guidelines for the acquisition, maintenance and utilization of automatic external defibrillators (AED) by the Marshfield Public School System. The outlined policy procedure and guidelines are designed to direct trained responders in the Marshfield Public School System to deliver early defibrillation to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. The policy is intended to greatly increase the chance of survival of a sudden cardiac arrest prior to the arrival of the local EMS. This policy does not create any obligation or expectation that either an AED device or trained employee will be present at every event. This policy, procedure and guidelines will identify the AED Medical Director, Program Coordinator and Site Coordinator. It will include regulatory and documentation requirements, storage sites, use and training requirements as well as roles and responsibilities of all personnel.