**Develop a Cardiac Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

**What is a Cardiac Emergency Response Team?**

The Cardiac Emergency Response Team is a group of school staff members who have current CPR/AED training and are designated to respond to and provide basic life support during a cardiac emergency. The CERT should be established prior to the start of each school year to plan, implement, and evaluate the school’s adopted Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP).

**Who are potential members of a Cardiac Emergency Response Team?**

Potential team members include:

* Staff members with current CPR/AED training - School nurse
* School administrators - Health and physical educators
* Athletic director/athletic trainer - Coaches or after-school event advisors

**What are the roles of a Cardiac Emergency Response Team?**

Roles of the team include:

* Communicate with school administration annually to receive outcome of the medical and legal counsel review of the plan to ensure that the adopted Cardiac Emergency Response Plan is consistent with local, state and federal law.
* Read the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan to implement action steps in the following categories
  + Automated external defibrillators (AEDs)
  + Activation of Cardiac Emergency Response Team during an identified cardiac emergency
  + Communication of the plan throughout the school
  + Training plan for AED use and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
  + Local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) integration
  + Annual review and evaluation of the plan
  + Protocol for All Cardiac Emergency Response Responders (Staff, Faculty, Cardiac Emergency Response Team etc.)
* Meet monthly to plan, implement, and evaluate the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan
* Monitor the implementation of the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan monthly with the CERP Timeline
* Evaluate the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan annually and provide feedback & data for the School Improvement Plan and for the American Heart Association
* Update the School Improvement Plan Action Steps regarding the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan annually
* Establish and maintain 2-year certification card from recognized training organization (including local EMS, who often provide free training)

In addition it is recommended that a minimum of 10% of overall school staff, 50% of coaches and 50% of PE staff should have current CPR/AED certification.