

2025 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Report to the Legislature

South Dakota Department of Education

December 1, 2025

CPR DATA

On September 3 the South Dakota Department of Education (the department) sent an electronic survey to all superintendents in South Dakota's public schools. The survey requested one response per school district. Per SDCL 13-3-93, the purpose of the survey was to collect data regarding the extent of training related to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED) offered in schools. The survey closed October 10. The results below show the responses from 147 of the 148 public school districts in 2024 and 146 of 147 public districts in 2025. One district responded both years that because they are only K-5, they are not offering CPR. Big Stone School District closed in 2025.

The survey results indicate CPR education is most commonly provided in high school, especially grade 9, though there was a slight shift toward later grades (10-12). Elementary and early middle school grades continue to have limited exposure to CPR education.

Of the 147 districts responding to the survey, several districts are offering CPR\AED education at multiple grade levels. Some districts are utilizing community certified trainers for one-day events or providing training events for various K-12 grades. Many districts are also offering CPR/AED training for their staff and utilizing the department's [CPR resource page](#) to identify agencies such as local EMT, school or county nurses, Red Cross, or Fire and Rescue to offer trainings allowing certification for students and staff.

Grade Level in which CPR education is available to students				
	2024		2025	
	count	%	count	%
Kindergarten	1	0.28%	1	0.31%
Grade 1	1	0.28%	1	0.31%
Grade 2	1	0.28%	1	0.31%
Grade 3	1	0.28%	1	0.31%
Grade 4	1	0.28%	1	0.31%
Grade 5	4	1.12%	2	0.62%
Grade 6	12	3.35%	10	3.11%
Grade 7	16	4.47%	16	4.97%
Grade 8	33	9.22%	31	9.63%
Grade 9	113	31.56%	91	28.26%
Grade 10	57	15.92%	53	16.46%
Grade 11	49	13.69%	48	14.91%
Grade 12	68	18.99%	65	20.19%
Not offered	1	0.28%	1	0.31%

**Note: Because districts can indicate multiple grade levels the count will exceed the number of respondents.*

This year there was a notable decline in districts requiring CPR for graduation: 43.5% in 2024 to 30.1% in 2025. The number of districts requiring CPR for graduation decreased from 102 to 83.

CPR education/training as a graduation requirement				
	2024		2025	
	count	%	count	%
Yes	64	43.54%	44	30.14%
No	83	56.46%	102	69.86%
Total	147	100.00%	146	100.00%

The department, along with a CPR stakeholders group, created the [CPR Resources for Schools](#) webpage to assist districts in providing CPR and AED education. To comply with SDCL 13-3-92, all resources and contacts are for state-based organizations with national recognition. Only 30.14% of districts indicated having visited the website to review the statewide agencies.

Several districts indicated they provide CPR/AED education by utilizing local EMT/fire/hospital certified trainers for one day trainings or workshop settings rather than through course of instruction areas listed on the survey. Some districts indicated they provide CPR/AED opportunities through stand-alone classes, careers courses, or those that connect to the health industry. The next three tables provide additional details about how CPR and AED skills are being taught in districts.

Courses in which CPR and AED skills are taught				
	2024		2025	
	count	%	count	%
Health	106	72.11%	113	77.40%
Physical Education	26	17.69%	26	17.81%
Science	7	4.76%	4	2.74%
Other	8	5.44%	3	2.05%
Total	147	100.00%	146	100.00%

Other responses:

- Senior careers class
- Local trainer
- Human development (CTE) class
- Sports medicine (CTE) class
- Medical Terminology/CNA class
- Emergency Medical Technician class
- Intro to EMS class

Length of time CPR education is provided				
	2024		2025	
	count	%	count	%
One day training	77	52.38%	49	33.56%
A few days to a week	53	36.05%	76	52.05%
Several Weeks	0	0.00%	12	8.22%
One quarter (9 weeks)	13	8.84%	6	4.11%
Other	4	2.72%	3	2.05%
Total	147	100.00%	146	100.00%

Extent of CPR education provided				
	2024		2025	
	count	%	count	%
CPR and AED skills training	99	67.35%	114	78.08%
CPR training with certification and AED training	26	17.69%	29	19.86%
Skipped Question	22	14.97%	3	2.05%
Total	147	100.00%	146	100.00%

SD CODIFIED LAWS FOR CPR

13-3-91. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation skills to be included in school curriculum. The secretary of education shall identify cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills that all schools shall include within required school curriculum and shall inform school districts of resources and training available to assist schools to provide instruction in CPR and the use of automated external defibrillators.

Source: SL 2014, ch 79, § 1; SL 2017, ch 75, § 1.

13-3-92. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation training resources. Any training resources the secretary of education recommends pursuant to § 13-3-91 shall be nationally recognized, use the most current national guidelines for CPR and emergency cardiovascular care, and incorporate psychomotor skills development into the instruction.

Source: SL 2014, ch 79, § 2.

13-3-93. Annual survey of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction--Report to Legislature. The secretary of education shall electronically survey school districts regarding whether, and to what extent, the instruction of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators is offered. The survey must gather data regarding what grades, for what period of time, and in connection with what course of instruction, if any, the training is offered. The secretary shall submit a report of the results of this data collection to the Senate and House standing committees on education and health and human services no later than December 1 of each year.

Source: SL 2014, ch 79, § 3.

13-3-94. Programs that may be used for cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction. To provide the instruction required in § 13-3-91, the school board or governing body shall use either of the following:

(1) An instructional program developed by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross; or

(2) An instructional program that is nationally recognized and based on the most current American Heart Association guidelines for CPR and emergency cardiovascular care.

The psychomotor skills necessary to perform hands-only CPR and awareness in the use of an AED shall be incorporated into the instruction.

For the purposes of this section, the term, psychomotor skills, means the use of hands-on practicing to support cognitive learning.

Source: SL 2017, ch 75, § 2.

13-3-95. CPR and AED instructors. A certified teacher is not required to be an authorized CPR or AED instructor to facilitate, provide, or oversee the instruction required in § 13-3-94. However, any CPR course that results in the students earning a CPR course completion card shall be taught by an authorized CPR or AED instructor.

Source: SL 2017, ch 75, § 3.

13-3-96. Annual survey of schools. The Department of Education shall annually conduct a survey of each applicable school to determine compliance with the requirements of §§ 13-3-91, 13-3-94, and 13-3-95.

Source: SL 2017, ch 75, § 4.