

# SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION ACT MODEL LANGUAGE

(Revised May 23, 2014)

## Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.

## Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Athletic activity." All of the following:

(1) Interscholastic athletics.

(2) An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school entity, including cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations.

(3) Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with a school entity.

(4) Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all of the activities listed under paragraphs (1), (2) and (3).

## Section 3. Sudden cardiac arrest.

(a) Educational materials.

(1) The Department of Education shall develop and post on its publicly accessible Internet websites guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after

experiencing the following symptoms: fainting or seizures during exercise, unexplained shortness of breath, chest pains, dizziness, racing heart rate and extreme fatigue.

(2) In developing the guidelines and materials, the department and the Department of Education may utilize, at no cost to the State, an educational video created by Simon's Fund for the purpose of educating coaches about sudden cardiac arrest.

(3) A student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall, each school year and prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity, sign and return to the student's school an acknowledgment of receipt and review of the sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and warning sign information sheet developed under this subsection.

(b) Informational meeting. A school entity may hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season for all ages of competitors regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. In addition to students, parents, coaches and other school officials, informational meetings may include physicians, pediatric cardiologists and athletic trainers.

(c) Removal from play.

(1) A student who passes out or faints while participating in, or immediately following, an athletic activity, or who is known to have passed out or fainted while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity, must be removed from participation at that time by the athletic director, coach or athletic trainer.

(2) A student who exhibits any of the other symptoms set forth in Section 3 during an athletic activity, may be removed from participation by an athletic trainer, if said athletic trainer reasonably believes that said symptoms are cardiac related. In the absence of an athletic trainer, coaches who observe any of the other symptoms set forth in Section 3, should notify the parent(s) of the student so that the parent(s) can determine what treatment, if any, the student should seek.

(3) A student who is removed from play under this provision shall not be permitted return to participation in an athletic activity until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by an appropriate medical professional.

(d) Training course.

(1) Once each school year, a coach of an athletic activity shall complete the sudden cardiac arrest training course provided by Simon's Fund, or another provider approved by the department.

(2) A coach of an athletic activity shall not be eligible to coach the athletic activity until the coach completes the training course required under this subsection.

(e) Penalties. The governing body of a school entity shall establish the following minimum penalties for a coach found in violation of the requirements under subsection (c)(1) and (d)(1), which penalties shall take effect two years following the effective date of this section:

(1) For a first violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season.

(2) For a second violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the next season.

(3) For a third violation, permanent suspension from coaching any athletic activity.

(f) Civil Liability. No coach shall be exposed to civil liability for his/her actions/inactions under this Act unless he/she is found to have acted in a grossly negligent and/or reckless manner.

(g) Other youth athletic activities. The sponsors of youth athletic activities are encouraged to follow the guidance stated in this act.