

# RISK SIMPLIFIED

## RESOURCES

[AB-2009](#)

[Health and Safety Code 1797.196](#)

[American Heart Association - AED Q&A](#)

## QUESTIONS

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## AB 2009: Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

by Scarlett Sadler

Existing law requires school districts to provide certain medical services in connection with athletic events that are sponsored, controlled by, or under the jurisdiction of a school district. On September 21, 2018, AB-2009 was approved and filed with California's Secretary of State. The bill is focused on preventing sudden cardiac arrest, but also requires schools to develop a written emergency action plan for all athletic related emergencies.

AB-2009 adds Section 35179.4 and Section 35179.6 to the Education Code to require schools participating in an interscholastic athletic program to provide the following:



- A written emergency action plan that includes the location and procedures to be used in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest. The emergency action plan must also discuss other medical emergencies related to the athletic program's activities and events (e.g., concussions, spinal injuries, heat stress). It must be posted at all venues and easily accessible to anyone who has an implementation role. Although not required in this bill, consider adding active assailant and weather related emergencies to the emergency action plan.
- At least one automated external defibrillator (AED) must be available on campus to render emergency care or treatment. It should be located within three to five minutes of sudden cardiac arrest of pupils, spectators, and any other individuals in attendance.
- Encourage that the AED is available to render emergency care or treatment.
- Ensure that the AED is available to athletic trainers, coaches, and other authorized persons at the athletic program's on-campus activities and events.
- Ensure that the AED is maintained and regularly tested.

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The bill expressly states that school district employees are not liable for civil damages resulting from specific uses, attempted uses, or non-use of an AED in the rendering of emergency care or treatment. AB-2009 also affords protection to the school district provided that the district complies with the requirements outlined in the bill and California's Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.196.

Section 1797.196 outlines specific requirements for AEDs. The provisions relate to maintenance requirements, communication with local emergency medical service (EMS) agencies, and record keeping. An overview of key provisions include:

- Districts must notify an agent of the local EMS agency of the existence, location, and type of AED available.
- Ensure that the AED is maintained and tested according to the operation and maintenance guidelines set forth by the manufacturer.
- Ensure that the AED is tested at least biannually and after each use.
- Ensure that an inspection is made of all AEDs on the premises at least every ninety days for potential issues related to operability of the device, including a blinking light or other obvious defects that may suggest tampering or that another problem has arisen with the functionality of the AED.
- Ensure that records for required maintenance and testing are preserved (per your records retention policy).
- When an AED is placed in a K–12 school, the principal must ensure that the school administrators and staff annually receive information that describes sudden cardiac arrest, the school's emergency response plan, and the proper use of an AED. The principal must also ensure that instructions on how to use the AED are posted next to every AED. The instructions must be in no less than 14-point type lettering. The principal shall, at least annually, notify school employees as to the location of all AED units on the campus.



For additional assistance, please [contact](#) PRISM's Risk Control Department.