



# Indiana Department of Education

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Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

**To:** Superintendents, Principals, School Nurses, Athletic Directors, Coaches, and Band Leaders

**From:** Steve Balko, Director of School Building Security

**Date:** June 18, 2021

**Subject:** House Enrolled Act 1040, New Sudden Cardiac Arrest Requirements for Schools

## **Background Information:**

The Indiana General Assembly recently passed legislation that expands the original Sudden Cardiac Arrest Law (IC 20-34-8) to include additional requirements. The requirements of the original Sudden Cardiac Arrest Law, which are still in effect, include the following:

- Requires students, under the age of 18, who participate in an athletic competition, including competitive and non-competitive cheerleading, and their parents receive an information sheet regarding the nature and risk of sudden cardiac arrest.
- Requires students and parents to sign and return a form acknowledging the receipt of the information sheet to the school.
- Requires schools to remove a student who is experiencing a symptom of sudden cardiac arrest from the activity and notify the parents.
- Requires verbal permission, followed by written permission within 24 hours, from the parent in order for a student who has been removed from an activity to resume participation.

These requirements apply to all public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited non-public schools.

## **New Requirements:**

[House Enrolled Act 1040](#), passed during the 2021 legislative session, added additional requirements to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Law. These new requirements include:

- Expands the definition of applicable students to include those participating in marching band.
- Defines the symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest as fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness, and abnormal racing heart.



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- Adds a requirement to include electrocardiogram information on the information sheet.
- Provides a list of people who can remove a student from an activity which includes a game official, coach from the student's athletic or cheerleading activity, licensed athletic trainer, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed physician, or marching band leader.
- Includes a requirement that coaches and marching band leaders must complete a sudden cardiac arrest training course.
- Adds liability protection for adults providing coaching or leadership services to applicable students.

Documents to assist schools with implementing these new requirements, including information sheets for students and parents, an acknowledgment form, sample parent notification forms, a FAQ document, and a link to an approved course can be found on the Indiana Department of Education's Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest webpage by clicking [here](#). If you have additional questions, please contact Jolene Bracale at [jbracale@doe.in.gov](mailto:jbracale@doe.in.gov).