

# Policy: Response to Unexpected Health Emergencies

Policy Section: 1000  
Policy No. 1120  
Adopted: May 28, 2026  
Revised:



## Policy Intent

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring safe and responsive learning environments. The Board acknowledges that unexpected health emergencies can occur without warning and requires immediate action to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and other members of the school community.

Under the School Act and the Support Services for Schools Order (M149/89, as amended by M198/25), the Board must establish and maintain a publicly available policy that ensures that life-saving tools, including Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and naloxone kits, are readily accessible in every school.

## Policy

### **Establishment of District-Wide Emergency Response Framework**

The Board affirms its responsibility to provide direction for district-wide readiness in responding to unexpected health emergencies, consistent with provincial legislation, ministerial orders, and provincial policy.

### **Availability of Life-Saving Tools**

The Board requires that AEDs and naloxone kits be readily accessible in all district schools, aligned with Ministry timelines:

- Secondary schools by December 31, 2025
- Elementary and middle schools by September 8, 2026

### **Accessibility, Maintenance, and Readiness**

The Board directs that AEDs and naloxone kits be maintained in a state of continuous readiness and placed in clearly identifiable and accessible locations within each school. Administrative Procedures shall establish standards for placement, inspection, maintenance, training and replacement to ensure timely, safe, and equitable access across all school sites.

### **Superintendent Responsibilities**

The Superintendent is delegated responsibility for:

- Developing and maintaining Administrative Procedures that operationalize this policy;
- Ensuring compliance with provincial requirements and district expectations;
- Providing regular updates to the Board on implementation, equipment readiness, and training coverage.

### **Equitable and Safe Access**

The Board directs that AEDs and naloxone kits be accessible in a manner that supports student and staff safety and reflects the needs of diverse school communities.

## Definitions

**Unexpected Health Emergency**

A sudden and serious medical event requiring immediate intervention to preserve life, health, or safety until emergency responders arrive.

**Automated External Defibrillator (AED)**

A portable medical device used to analyze heart rhythm and deliver an electrical shock when necessary during sudden cardiac arrest.

**Naloxone**

A medication used to temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

**Designated First Aid Attendant / Responder**

A staff member who holds valid first aid certification and is designated by the employer to respond to medical emergencies.

**References:**

- Support Services for Schools Order (M149/89, amended by M198/25)
- Response to Unexpected Health Emergencies — Provincial Policy
- School Act 88(1) and 168(2)(t)
- Provincial Expectations for AED and Naloxone Accessibility
- Response to Unexpected Health Emergencies Procedure No. 1120