



Public Schools of North Carolina  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

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# Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

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Completion of CPR by Students  
Required

*SL 2012-197 (HB 837), sec.2 G.S.  
115C-107.5*

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## **Report to Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation**

This report provides an overview of the legislated requirements and directive to develop a strategic plan to phase in successful completion of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) instruction as a requirement for high school graduation by the 2014-2015 school year. All required directives have been completed.

### **Background**

On July 26, 2012, House Bill 837 was signed into law and requires the State Board of Education to work in cooperation with the American Heart Association (AHA), the American Red Cross (ARC) and other nationally recognized programs to develop a strategic plan to phase in successful completion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction as a requirement for high school graduation by the 2014-2015 school year. In August 2012, Dr. Atkinson sent details of the requirement and the phase in plan that would be necessary to document compliance with the legislation to LEA Superintendents, School Health Advisory Council Contacts and Healthful Living Coordinators. While CPR instruction was currently being taught in the eighth grade in accordance the *Healthful Living Essential Standards*, previously adopted by the State Board of Education, the law required that documentation be initiated during the 2012-2013 school year. For the graduating class of 2015 and 2016, school districts were instructed to use NCWISE to identify students who passed eighth-grade Healthful Living and to verify that CPR was routinely taught as part of that class. Students who did not pass eighth-grade Healthful Living or if CPR was not taught, then the school district needed to identify a means to provide CPR instruction for the students before the 2014-15, 2015-2016 graduation years. Beginning with students who were in the eighth grade in 2012-2013, successful completion of the CPR requirement and documentation in Power School could occur without passing the eighth grade Healthful Living course.

### **Actions**

Since being signed into law, DPI has taken the following actions to enable compliance with the law:

- Convened a subcommittee to resolve issues and make recommendation regarding the legislation. Included in this subcommittee were representatives from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, the Division of Public Health, Wake County Schools Adapted Physical Education, Chatham County Schools Lead Nurse, Guilford County Healthful Living Specialist, and DPI representation from HIV, Allied Health, ESL and 504.

- Created a standard testing check sheet to be used by teachers to evaluate student performance of Hands Only CPR.
- Developed a resource that describes the correct way to use an AED and distributed it to schools.
- Created a field within PowerSchool to record successful completion of CPR as a graduation requirement.
- Provided guidance for schools to make adaptations for students with special circumstances.
- Provided updates and guidance at all Healthful Living professional development events to ensure that educators understood the legislation and had the necessary resources to comply with the legislation.
- The cost of implementation has been minimal. Expense to LEAs has been the purchase of mannequins in those LEA's that had not previously taught CPR.

### **Status Summary**

This requirement is aligned with current eighth-grade *Health Education Essential Standards* Clarifying Objective 8.PCH “Demonstrate basic CPR techniques and procedures on a mannequin and pass a Red Cross or American Heart Association approved test of CPR skills.” Given this close alignment to the legislation, implementation for most districts has been as simple as documentation of teaching and student completion of the skill-based assessment. School districts not teaching CPR as part of their eighth-grade course or who had students move into the district that had not received instruction have been provided multiple resources ([hlnces.ncdpi.wikispaces.net](http://hlnces.ncdpi.wikispaces.net)), as well as technical assistance, in order to successfully meet the requirement for student graduation. The 2014-2015 graduating class, the first under this legislation, has successfully completed this requirement.