



# DOAA

Georgia Department  
of Audits & Accounts

**Greg S. Griffin**  
State Auditor

January 24, 2024

Honorable Lee Hawkins  
Chairman, Health Committee  
401-C State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
House Bill 874 (LC 33 9550)

Dear Chairman Hawkins:

The bill would require all public K-12 schools to have at least one functional automated external defibrillator (AED) on site at all times. Additionally, the bill requires each school to establish an internal response team of school personnel responsible for developing and overseeing an emergency action plan in response to a person in cardiac arrest. Each member of the internal response team, plus any other expected users of the AED, should receive nationally-recognized training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED use. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the internal response team would be required to annually conduct at least two emergency action plan practice drills per school year, and schools would be required to obtain an AED by July 1, 2025.

Based on data from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), it would cost approximately \$6.9 million to supply all public K-12 schools with an AED, as shown in **Table 1**. This assumes an average cost of \$3,000 per AED, though GaDOE noted costs can vary from \$1,500 to \$5,000. AEDs would need to be replaced every 10 years. Total costs are based on the number of K-12 public schools as of the October 2023 FTE count, excluding virtual schools. GaDOE data indicates that 402 schools may already have an AED, due to existing requirements for public high schools with an athletics program to maintain a functioning AED. However, these schools are included in the cost estimate because the age of their AEDs is not known, and it is unclear whether they are nearing replacement.

**Table 1: Total Cost of AEDs**

Total K-12 public schools	AED Cost	Total
2,288	\$3,000	\$6,864,000

### Training Costs

The bill does not specify whether the state is responsible for delivering AED and CPR training to members of the internal response team, though GaDOE estimated that this would cost approximately \$1,500 per school:

- **CPR Instructor Training (\$500)** – Rather than using an external contractor to deliver AED and CPR training, GaDOE indicated that nurses or other staff already employed by many school systems are currently certified instructors who are able to deliver the training

to school staff as needed. According to GaDOE, this is more cost-effective and efficient due to turnover among school staff and because certifications are only valid for two years. GaDOE also noted that Children's Healthcare of Atlanta provides free CPR Instructor training for school nurses, though classes are limited. If this training is utilized, training costs would be lower.

- **Equipment (\$1,000)** – According to GaDOE, training manikins are necessary to perform CPR and AED certifications in schools, and they are also needed to conduct the two annual practice drills. GaDOE noted that four manikins would be enough for small schools, though larger districts may need more.

### **Additional Considerations**

- Some schools, in addition to the 402 discussed earlier, may already have functioning AEDs, resulting in lower state costs.
- This estimate does not include potential AED maintenance costs (i.e., batteries), nor does it include staff time spent on training and practice drills.

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor



Richard Dunn, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/jm