



#255-22

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #255-22

DATE: October 28, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: *Guidelines for Policies on Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention in Student-Athletes*

Pursuant to [Senate Bill 463](#) (2020), on September 15, 2022, the Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) approved and adopted [Guidelines for Policies on Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention in Student-Athletes](#) (Guidelines) to protect student-athletes by providing recommendations that support the development and implementation of effective sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) prevention policies in local school divisions through education, prompt recognition, and appropriate response.

The goals of the Guidelines are to inform and educate coaches, student-athletes, and student-athletes' parents or guardians about the nature and risk of SCA, and to ensure that student-athletes who may be at increased risk of SCA are properly identified, promptly removed from activity, and not allowed to return to play until evaluated by an appropriate licensed health care provider as determined by the VBOE. Training parents, students, and coaches to respond to an SCA emergency could help save a life.

The Guidelines, which are available on the [Virginia Department of Education Physical Education webpage](#), were developed in consultation with clinicians with subspecialties in pediatric sports medicine, pediatric cardiology, interventional cardiology, emergency medicine, and family medicine. Additional stakeholders consulted are affiliated with the

Virginia Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, Virginia College of Emergency Physicians, Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association, Virginia Association of School Nurses, Virginia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, Virginia Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters; Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, Virginia High School League Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, the American Board of Family Medicine, Virginia Department of Health, and the Virginia School Board Association.

For more information

Questions regarding the Virginia Board of Education *Guidelines for Policies on Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention in Student-Athletes* may be addressed to Vanessa Wigand by email at Vanessa.Wigand@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3300.

JB/VW