

# Implementing an AED Program in Schools: A Comprehensive Guide



Every year, thousands of children have fatal results from suffering sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) while at school. However, many of these deaths could be prevented with the presence of an automated external defibrillator (AED) program in place. Follow this step-by-step guide on how to implement an AED program in your school.

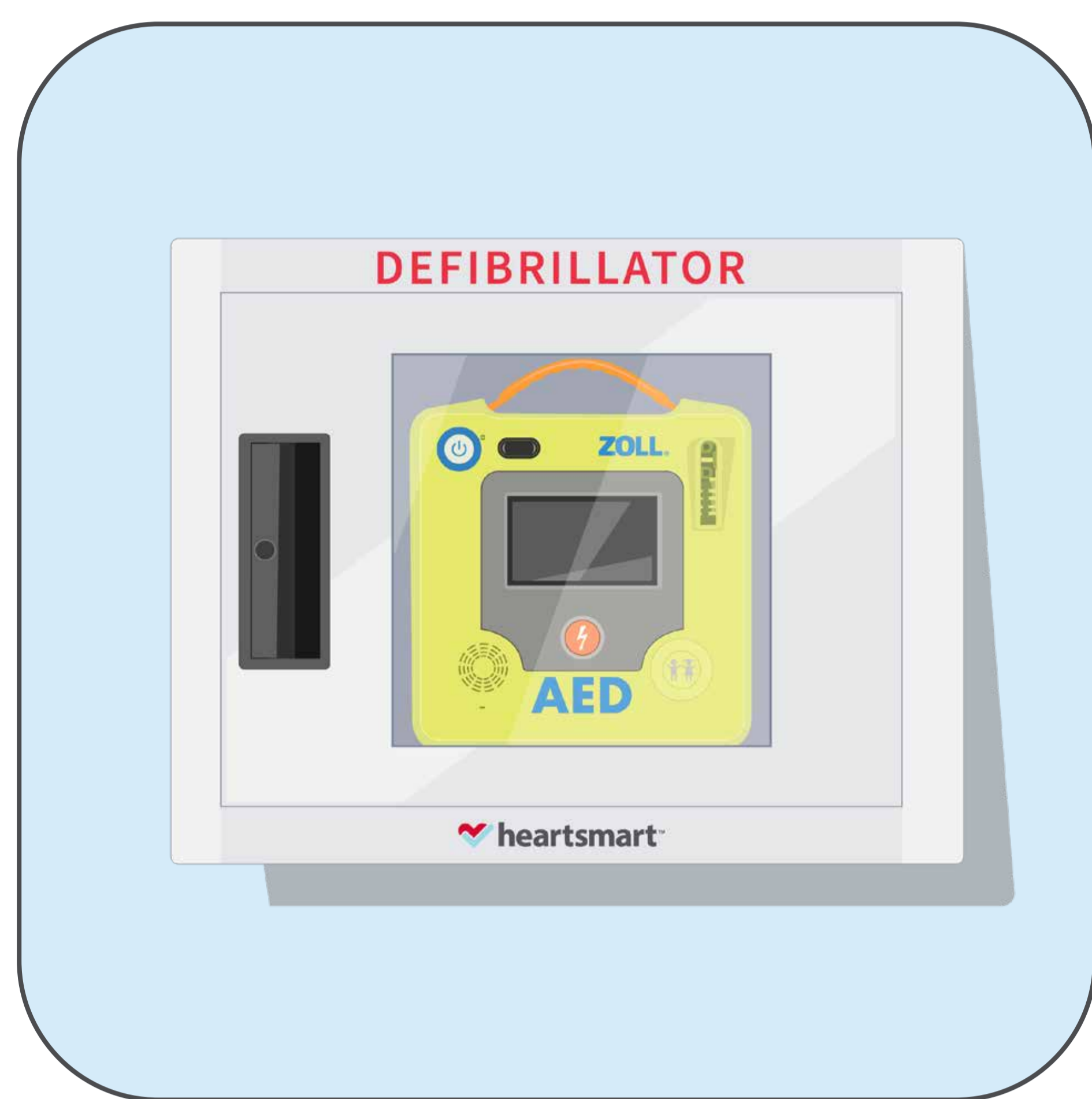
## Step 1: Planning an AED Program



- Understand the [legal requirements for AEDs in schools](#) based on your state regulations
- Form a team responsible for developing and implementing the program, with each member assigned specific maintenance tasks
- Set program goals, determine responsibilities, and develop a budget for AED maintenance

## Step 2: Selecting and Placing AEDs

- Consider the [features and types of AEDs available](#), such as the weight of the AED for on-the-go purposes and water/dust-resistant options
- Choose suitable locations for AED placement, ensuring easy access, high-traffic areas, and visibility with signage
- Install AEDs in [easily accessible cabinets](#), preferably equipped with alarms to alert when accessed



## Step 3: Training Staff and Students



- Provide training to staff members likely to be present during emergencies, including teachers, principals, coaches, and school nurses
- Offer [CPR/AED/First Aid courses](#) to equip staff with the necessary skills
- Educate students about SCA, CPR techniques, and the importance of using AEDs during emergencies
- Conduct regular refresher training sessions for staff and incorporate CPR/AED courses into the curriculum

## Step 4: Regular Drills and Exercises

- Conduct drills to simulate emergency situations, allowing staff and students to practice their responses
- Identify areas for improvement and ensure everyone knows what to do during a real emergency



## Step 5: Maintaining the AED Program



- Develop a maintenance plan, including regular inspection, testing, and replacement of expired or malfunctioning AEDs
- Assign staff members to oversee specific maintenance tasks, such as disinfection and monitoring pad and battery expiration dates
- Stay updated on state laws and requirements regarding AEDs, as they may change over time
- Consider using an [AED management Program](#) to streamline AED ownership and compliance

## Step 6: Evaluating Program Effectiveness

- Analyze the rescue process to measure the impact of the AED program
- Assess factors like the rescuer's ability to identify SCA signs, promptness in calling emergency medical services, and timely access to the AED within a 3-4 minute timeframe
- Evaluate the outcomes of rescue processes to identify areas for improvement and make necessary changes



To learn more about starting an AED program in your school, contact Heartsmart at [support@heartsmart.com](mailto:support@heartsmart.com) or fill out our [Contact Us Form](#).