

Date: January 13, 2016

To: Members, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

From: Dee Pettack, Legislative Liaison, Department of Public Instruction

RE: Statement on AB 545

Current Law

2009 WI Act 273 required public high schools, independent charter schools, and private schools to offer enrolled high school students instruction in cardiopulmonary and cardio cerebral resuscitation (CCR) and instruction about automated external defibrillators (AED). The instruction in cardiopulmonary and cardio cerebral resuscitation must be based on an instructional program established by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association or other nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines.

Assembly Bill 545

Beginning in the 2017–18 school year, Assembly Bill 545 (AB 545) requires school boards, operators of independent charter schools, and governing bodies of private schools in grades 7 through 12 to provide instruction in CCR in any health education course offered to pupils and to provide instruction about AED to all pupils. Requiring all schools to actually provide, rather than just offer, instruction ensures that a greater number of students would have the opportunity to learn life-saving skills, which if properly utilized, might someday save another person's life.

Under this legislation, it is unclear how often a school district would be required to offer this training during the career of a student. However, it is possible that a student may receive this instruction multiple times as they progress from grades 7 through 12.

CCR could likely be completed in a class period – AB 545 does not require a student to receive certification cardiopulmonary and cardio cerebral resuscitation. Courses that do not offer certification to participants may be taught by “facilitators” (non-certified persons knowledgeable about CPR).

As you know, additional school district duties require staff time and resources. The overall fiscal effect will vary by district based on whether they offer certification as part of their instruction and the amount of supplies they will need to purchase for instruction, which may include the initial purchase of manikins and consumable supplies like disposable plastic airways for manikins' lungs, cleansing wipes, sanitizing supplies, and recognition cards.