



For Immediate Release:

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State Board Passes Resolution on CPR and Defibrillator Training Will identify curriculum resources for schools to use in classrooms

(HARTFORD, CT)— The State Board of Education today unanimously passed a resolution that encourages Connecticut public schools to provide students with training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators.

The Board passed the resolution in support of legislation that Governor Dannel P. Malloy signed in June (Public Act 12-198), which focused on the availability of CPR and automated external defibrillator training materials for the classroom.

Three Ellington High School students, Megan Chamberland, 17, Gabriela Ewald, 16, and Julia Scavetta, 16, presented information to the Board on CPR and gave a demonstration of how valuable it is in an emergency. The students are members of Ellington Rescue Post 512, a nonprofit organization run by Ellington High School students that allows them to receive hands-on emergency medical training.

Following the demonstration, the Board approved the resolution to identify resources and existing related training materials, with the goal of creating a “generation of lifesavers.”

In just the past month, there have been three news reports about an adult or high school student who performed CPR and saved someone’s life. So-called “bystander CPR” provides oxygenated blood to the brain and heart in the first crucial minutes of cardiac arrest. Adding an automated external defibrillator to the mix can increase the chances of survival by shocking the victim’s heart back into a regular rhythm until professional help arrives.

The Board directed the State Department of Education to work with partners such as the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, the Connecticut chapter of the American College of Cardiology, and others to identify existing resources and help provide access to materials for districts.

Under the resolution, the life-saving resources will be available by 2015-16 and all schools should be accessing them by 2016-17.

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