

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

During the 2007 legislative session, a bill was introduced to allocate funds for **all** ND schools that do not have automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to receive one. SB 2313 passed unanimously and was signed by Governor John Hoeven on April 24, 2007.

Statistics show that more than 200,000 Americans die of sudden cardiac arrest every year. Up to 50,000 of these deaths could have been prevented if someone had initiated the Cardiac Chain of Survival, and an **automated external defibrillator (AED)** had been available for immediate use at the time of the emergency. An AED is a device about the size of a laptop computer that analyzes the heart's rhythm for any abnormalities and, if necessary, directs the rescuer to deliver an electrical shock to the victim. This shock, called defibrillation, may help the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm of its own.

AEDs will not only provide life saving measures to students and staff, but also to parents and community members who attend school related events or use the school facility for community events. In rural areas where emergency care is not readily available, AEDs become critical life saving devices. AEDs are easy to use and can not cause injury. In North Dakota, three students died on school grounds since 2005 as a result of cardiac arrest; at that time, none of the schools had access to an AED.

The AED at Wilkinson School is located in the main hallway to the left of the double gym doors. This location allows the AED to be accessible at all times when the building is open. Jody Cymbaluk will be showing Wilkinson staff how to use the AED on February 4, 2008. A more comprehensive training, including CPR, will be held for all staff in August, 2008.

In addition to the Federal Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 2000, North Dakota passed HB 1108, which relates to immunity' from civil liability for persons using automated external defibrillators.