

Dr. Martin Karp, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF
CERTIFYING TWO STAFF MEMBERS AT EACH SCHOOL SITE
AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK LOCATION IN
CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) AND
AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATION (AED)**

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a combination of rescue breathing and chest compressions delivered to victims who are thought to be in cardiac arrest. When cardiac arrest occurs, often caused by an abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF), the heart stops pumping blood. The administration of CPR can support small amounts of blood flow to the heart and brain until normal heart function is restored, whereas defibrillation eliminates the abnormal VF heart rhythm and allows the normal rhythm to resume.

The importance of having trained staff at each work location is predicated by the fact that early CPR and defibrillation, within the first three to five minutes after collapse, and early advanced care can result in greater long term survival rates. The value of CPR by bystanders assists in maintaining some blood flow to the heart and brain during cardiac arrest.

In addition to the legislatively mandated CPR training course received by all tenth-grade students through the Life Management Skills class, it would be beneficial to have all students in grades K-8 become aware of the importance of learning CPR and other life saving skills. This could be accomplished through career day presentations, school site visits by practicing professionals, such as fire rescue, fire fighters, and physicians.

There is no cost to the district.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTIN KARP: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent of Schools to study the feasibility of certifying two staff members at each school site and administrative work location in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillation (AED).

There is no cost to the district.