

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND UPDATE ON PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENT MEDICAL EMERGENCIES AND INCIDENTS AT SCHOOL SPONSORED ATHLETIC AND RELATED EVENTS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) remains committed to the health, safety, and wellness of its students. In fact, one of the most critical roles and responsibilities of the Board is to ensure that all appropriate provisions, protocols, and safeguards are in place to protect and if needed, save the lives of students. As a District committed to ensuring that students have access to and participate in a range of state and Board approved interscholastic sports and related activities, it must also remain cognizant of and vigilant in ensuring that all measures are contemplated in the event of a medical emergency that occurs during students' participation in such activities, competitions, and/or events.

In addition, students' participation in interscholastic sports has been recognized by the state and Board as a mainstay of school districts, schools, and more important, the learning and life experiences of students. In fact, research has shown that athletics, specifically at the high school level, provides a vehicle that improves students' citizenship, sportsmanship, self-discipline, physical and emotional wellness, and their grade point averages. While the Board, pursuant to School Board Policy 2431, fully supports interscholastic athletics and related activities, it must continue to ensure that student safety remains at the forefront, notwithstanding the provisions outlined in School Board Policy 2431.05, as well as School Board Policy 8452, Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Recently, an NFL player collapsed during a live football game. The collapse required medical staff to perform CPR on the NFL safety, who according to reports, had to have his heartbeat restored on the field and an automated external defibrillator (AED) employed. It was subsequently confirmed that he had suffered a cardiac arrest during the game. It was also confirmed that the coordinated medical response saved his life.

A subsequent medical emergency occurred during a high school flag football game at a high school in the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada. A 16-year-old female student collapsed after going to the bench experiencing chest pains. She too was given CPR and a defibrillator was also used to regain her heartbeat, tragically, she died while being transported to the hospital.

These and other similar emergencies and tragedies call for a review of M-DCPS' procedures, protocols, and medical partners charged with responding to medical emergencies and incidents at school sponsored athletic and related activities and events. The District must anticipate and be prepared for potential emergency situations such as shootings, fights, assaults, falls, and any other medical emergencies that may arise.

Thus, this item seeks to direct the Superintendent to review procedures, protocols, and response partners for school sponsored athletic and related activities and events, solicit involvement and input from the District's Wellness Advisory Committee, and provide an update to the School Board no later than April 7, 2023, and prior to the commencement of Spring Football Practice.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the General Counsel's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida directs the Superintendent to:

1. direct the Superintendent to review procedures, protocols, and response partners for school sponsored athletic and related activities and events;
2. solicit involvement and input from the District's Wellness Advisory Committee; and
3. provide an update to the School Board no later than April 7, 2023.