

## Project S.A.V.E. Heart Safe School

### What is Heart Safe School designation?

Heart Safe Schools (HSS) is a designation awarded to schools through Project S.A.V.E., recognizing their commitment and preparation to respond in the event of a cardiac emergency. Upon successful implementation of the sudden cardiac arrest emergency program, and completion of established criteria identified within the [Heart Safe School Checklist](#), the school is recognized as a Heart Safe School. Children's celebrates new Heart Safe Schools with a certificate and banner.

### Why is it important to become a Heart Safe School?

On average, 1,000 people a day in the U.S. (including some youth) experience sudden cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest happens when the heart stops beating properly, causing an abrupt loss of heart function, breathing and consciousness in a person who may or may not have heart disease. This malfunctioning of the heart's electrical system can be deadly if the proper steps aren't taken right away. Project S.A.V.E.'s Heart Safe School designation helps prepare schools for cardiac emergencies, which can potentially save lives.

We might not be able to prevent sudden cardiac arrest, but we CAN prevent sudden cardiac death. Project S.A.V.E. can equip you to be prepared for a cardiac emergency by:

- Creating a cardiac emergency response plan detailing what to do in an emergency and how to initiate it.
- Creating a cardiac emergency response team trained in CPR and use of an AED.
- Conducting practice drills for all staff so they are prepared.
- Placing the correct number of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in the school.

### How does a school become a Project S.A.V.E. Heart Safe School?

Any school in Georgia can become a Project S.A.V.E. Heart Safe School by taking the following steps:

1. Identifying a site coordinator to complete the online [Heart Safe School Checklist](#).
2. Reviewing the Heart Safe School Checklist to ensure your school is prepared for a cardiac emergency. This list will help determine the requirements that you need to implement, which ones are already in place, or if you need additional assistance.
3. Completing and submitting the Heart Safe School Checklist. If all requirements are not met or you need help, then your Project S.A.V.E. site coordinator ([ProjectSAVE@choa.org](mailto:ProjectSAVE@choa.org)) is able to provide guidance along the way.

For additional support, utilize the [Heart Safe School Designation Checkpoints](#), which describes steps to become a Heart Safe School. Each school's timeline varies, but implementation of the program may take several months to complete.



### **What does Project S.A.V.E. provide to Heart Safe Schools?**

- Free consultation and guidance on the implementation of a comprehensive CPR and AED program, including the development of a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan.
- Free CPR and AED instructor training course to assist you with educating your staff, or when necessary, we may provide training for staff.
- Free replacement pads after AED use and assistance in retrieving AED readings for the child's healthcare team.
- Schools will receive a Heart Safe School banner and framed certificate of recognition, along with American Red Cross CPR/AED certification cards/trainings.

### **How long does my Heart Safe School designation last?**

Heart Safe School designation is valid for two years. To maintain certification, resubmission of the Heart Safe School checklist and verification of annual AED drills are required. If your school has participated in Project S.A.V.E. in the past, complete the online [Heart Safe School Checklist](#).