



## MI HEARTSafe School Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in becoming a MI HEARTSafe School. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and American Heart Association (AHA), in conjunction with the Michigan Alliance for the Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death of the Young (MAP-SCDY) is proud to recognize MI HEARTSafe Schools that have submitted applications and met criteria demonstrating preparedness for a sudden cardiac arrest event. Below is a list of common questions, answers, and reminders to help you better understand the application process and the MI HEARTSafe School program.

Question	Answer
<b>What is a MI HEARTSafe School designation?</b>	<i>The MI HEARTSafe School designation recognizes a school's efforts to prevent sudden cardiac death of the young (SCDY) by preparing for a cardiac emergency.</i>
<b>What type of institution can receive this designation?</b>	<i>Any school building in the state of Michigan can apply for the program. This includes but is not limited to preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, junior high schools, high schools, private schools, freshman centers and administrative buildings.</i>
<b>Can colleges/universities apply?</b>	<i>YES. Colleges/universities may apply for individual buildings on campus. Applications will need to be filled out for individual dorms, recreation buildings, academic buildings, libraries, dining areas, etc.</i>
<b>Can an individual school program receive this designation?</b>	<i>NO. The MI HEARTSafe School designation applies to the entire school building; Individual school programs are not eligible for their own awards.</i>
<b>Can a school apply if our school building has no organized sports and/or no after-school activities?</b>	<i>YES; however, please remember that organized after school activities include programs such as Scouts, Latch Key, Girls on the Run, etc. If your school has no such program, please check N/A boxes for criteria related to organized sports and after-school activities on the MI HEARTSafe School application.</i>
<b>Can more than one school building be put on a single application (i.e. the whole district)?</b>	<i>NO. Each school building <u>must</u> submit its own application for designation. Applications covering more than one school building or an entire school district will not be accepted.</i>
<b>Can multiple schools apply that are within the same school building?</b>	<i>YES. If multiple schools share the same building and common spaces, they may apply together. However, schools that share a building but are completely separate and do not share accessible common areas are considered individual schools and must submit separate applications.</i>

<p><b>Does my school have to be part of a school district to receive this designation?</b></p>	<p><i>NO. As long as the school is located in the state of Michigan, they can apply and receive this designation.</i></p>
<p><b>How long does the MI HEARTSafe School designation last?</b></p>	<p><i>3 school years. Schools may reapply after their term ends. Check your renewal status on the <a href="#">MI HEARTSafe Schools in the Spotlight</a> page. Schools not listed may apply as a non-consecutive renewal. Renewal applications open January 1 of your renewal year (e.g., if your deadline is May 15, 2028, you may apply starting January 1, 2028).</i></p>
<p><b>What is the main form of communication for the MI HEARTSafe School program?</b></p>	<p><i>EMAIL. Emails will be sent regarding any questions, problems, concerns, application status, award acceptance and the award ceremony.</i></p>
<p><b>Who should be the school's contact?</b></p>	<p><i>The school contacts should be the school principal and CERT team coordinator. It is imperative that their contact information is accurate in case the MI HEARTSafe School Program team has questions concerning the application.</i></p>
<p><b>What is a cardiac emergency response plan and how can the school create one?</b></p>	<p><i>By state law (HB4713 approved in February 2014) every school in Michigan must have a written cardiac emergency response plan in place. The plans must be reviewed yearly by the staff.</i></p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> <i>Templates for creating a cardiac emergency response plan and cardiac emergency team along with more information can be found on our <a href="#">MI HEARTSafe Cardiac Emergency Response Plan and Drill</a> page.</i></p>
<p><b>Do I need a separate cardiac emergency response plan for organized after school activities?</b></p>	<p><i>If the school building has organized after school activities, the written cardiac emergency response plan should include specific plans for after school activities. This could be included in the overall written cardiac emergency response plan, or in a separate written plan for after school activities. Each activity does not need a separate plan but plans and cardiac emergency response team coverage must be in place and the plan communicated to those using the school building for the after-school events.</i></p>
<p><b>Is it required for the school to have a certain percentage of students CPR/AED certified or "Hands Only" CPR certified?</b></p>	<p><i>NO. Having a percentage of students CPR/AED or "Hands Only" CPR certified is not required.</i></p>
<p><b>How many AEDs are a sufficient number?</b></p>	<p><i>A sufficient number is determined by the ability to reach the scene and have an AED in place within a target of 1–3 minutes from any point in the school. AEDs should be clearly marked and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.</i></p>



<b>Is it required for the school to have mobile AEDs?</b>	<i>NO. Having mobile AEDs is not a requirement for the designation but can be helpful in cardiac emergency events.</i>
<b>How will the school know if it has received this designation?</b>	<i>At the end of the application period, schools will be notified whether they have received the designation. The main contact will be reached if clarification on any application items is required.</i>

**Please Remember:**

- Enter the official school name exactly as it should appear on all award materials, including proper punctuation and capitalization. If applying for schools who share a building AND connecting spaces, please list official school names accordingly.
- Before submitting, confirm with appropriate staff that your school accepts mail and large packages and does not use a separate mailing address. Failure to do so may result in delays or disruptions with the receipt of award materials.
- Provide valid and correctly written email addresses.
- If any contact information changes, the school is responsible for notifying the program. Failure to do so may result in delays or disruptions with the application process or receipt of award materials. The application deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications submitted beyond the deadline will not be accepted.

For questions about MI HEARTSafe Schools Award Program, how to qualify and apply, please check the website [www.migr.org/miheartsafe](http://www.migr.org/miheartsafe) or email [MDHHS-MI-HeartSafe@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-MI-HeartSafe@michigan.gov).