EXHIBIT E

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Public School Legislative Report 2025-2026

As required by A.C.A. §6-10-122

Cheria McDonald, MSN, APRN, NCSN
State School Nurse Consultant
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

In accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-10-122, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education submits this annual report to the Joint Legislative Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor regarding the status of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and emergency preparedness efforts within Arkansas K-12 public school campuses.

These efforts are rooted in the Antony Hobbs III Act of 2009, which established school-based AED and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) programs across the state. Since implementation, these programs have continued to evolve alongside advancements in emergency response practices and life-saving technology.

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education continues to support school districts by providing guidance for accurate reporting and maintaining current records related to AED placement and designated campus contacts responsible for emergency preparedness.

During the 2025-2026 school year, 1,064 campuses reported information related to AED availability and identified a designated contact person responsible for AED oversight, maintenance, and emergency readiness. Statewide, 16,812 school personnel were reported as trained in CPR and AED use, reflecting Arkansas schools' ongoing commitment to creating safer learning environments for students, staff, and visitors. This level of preparedness enhances each school community's ability to respond quickly and effectively during emergency situations.

Despite this progress, fourteen (14) schools self-reported that they do not currently have trained faculty members on campus. One of these schools is a virtual campus, while the remaining thirteen (13) campuses are located across ten (10) school districts. These findings emphasize the continued need for support, outreach, and training opportunities to ensure that all schools have access to emergency response education, life-saving equipment, and accurate reporting practices necessary to maintain preparedness and accountability statewide.