



# Schools Insurance Authority

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**Accessibility Considerations – Purchasing and Installing Automated External  
Defibrillator (AED) Wall Cabinets in Schools**

(California AB 2009 - Approved by Governor 9/21/18, Chapter 646)

Summary: New 2018 law requires schools districts or charter schools that offer an interscholastic athletic program to make at least one AED available at each school campus during any athletic event. The law does not stipulate the type, location or installation method for these units. However, AED's which are provided within permanent wall-mounted cabinets along circulation paths are required to meet the accessibility standards as noted below. See our October 2018 Member Alert [AED's in Schools](#) for more details on this law.

**Protruding Object** - Purchase and install only semi-recessed or fully recessed wall cabinets to ensure they do not create a non-accessible protruding object within a circulation path. Surface mount wall cabinets typically extend greater than 4 inches from the wall within the restricted height range.

**2016 CBC 11B-307.2 Protrusion limits.** Objects with leading edges more than 27 inches and not more than 80 inches above the finish floor shall protrude 4 inches maximum horizontally into the circulation path.

**Operable Parts** – Wall cabinet hardware operable parts must meet the accessible operable parts standards. C handle pulls are the most typical hardware that meets these requirements. Note: The AED units themselves are a “non-fixed component” and therefore not required to meet operability requirements.

**2016 CBC 11B-309.4 Operation.** Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds (22.2 N) maximum.

**Installation height** – Wall cabinet opening hardware must be no more than 48” above the finish floor or ground for an unobstructed forward or side approach. Cabinets installed over a counter or other object may have different reach range requirements. See 2016 CBC 11B-308 Reach Ranges for more detail.

**2016 CBC 11B-309.3 Height.** Operable parts shall be within one or more of the reach ranges specified in Section 11B-308.

**2016 CBC 11B-308.2.1 Forward reach. Unobstructed.** Where a forward reach is unobstructed, the high forward reach shall be 48 inches maximum.....above the finish floor or ground.

**Installation location** – Ensure an accessible route and min. 30”x48” adjacent clear floor space to the unit

**2016 CBC 11B-309.2 Clear floor space.** A clear floor or ground space complying with *Section 11B-305* shall be provided.