Administrative Program Overview & Starter Brief

Wisconsin Student Emergency Response Team · For school leaders and boards

AT A GLANCE

Wisconsin SERT prepares high school students to respond safely, confidently, and compassionately during emergencies. Students learn practical emergency-response skills, teamwork, and leadership through guided study, hands-on training, and realistic drills.

WHY ESTABLISH A SERT?

For the school: A supervised student team practices a calm, organized response to on-campus medical incidents, strengthening student leadership and readiness within the school's existing emergency procedures.

For students: Practical training, teamwork, and verifiable program credentials give students experiences to discuss with colleges, employers, and future mentors.

For the community: Training with EMS professionals introduces young people to healthcare, emergency services, and public-safety pathways.

HOW A SCHOOL-DAY RESPONSE WORKS

1. When an emergency occurs, the school follows its emergency procedures and requests professional help as appropriate.
2. A school announcement calls "SERT Activate" and identifies the location. Team members bring their medical bag and report to the scene.
3. Students assess scene safety, approach the patient, and use the skills they have practiced within their training and school protocols.
4. The team documents its actions and communicates with the school nurse, staff, and arriving responders.

SERT students support the response; they do not replace the school nurse, school staff, 911, or professional emergency responders.

TRAINING AND STUDENT GROWTH

Students work through instructional guides and practice drills that build from activation and scene safety to assessment, emergency skills, documentation, and handoff. Advisors guide team practice, and hands-on training connects students with working EMS professionals. The program tracks guide progress, skills, and awarded credentials so students can share evidence of their learning. External qualifications, such as AHA or FEMA credentials, depend on their own course and issuer requirements.

WHAT A SCHOOL NEEDS TO START

1. A Wisconsin high school willing to support a student response team and coordinate it with existing emergency procedures.
2. An adult school advisor or coordinator to guide the team and connect with appropriate school staff.
3. Interested students and time for preparation, skills practice, and hands-on training.
4. A plan for the team's medical bag, location-specific procedures, and coordination with school health staff and local responders.

QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

How will the team fit into the school's existing emergency plan and notification process? Who will supervise student training and coordinate with the nurse and school staff? Where will the medical bag be kept, and how will students practice safe activation and handoff? Which local EMS or healthcare partners can support training?

NEXT STEPS

Share this overview with school leadership and identify a prospective advisor. Discuss how a student team would fit your school's emergency plan and existing staff roles. Then visit the Wisconsin SERT website, choose "Create a SERT at My School," and submit the interest form to connect with the program team. The school can review program resources, build its roster, and plan training with the SERT team.