

## Incentives Do Not work



In 2008, 11 year old Austin Segreev died during recess at Palisades Elementary School in Lake Oswego due to a sudden cardiac arrest caused from a strike to the chest by a football. According to reports, CPR was not performed on Austin in accordance with child or adult CPR guidelines. Austin suffered commotio cordis, a type of cardiac arrest that can be cured with rapid use of an AED. The school had an AED but it was not used. Austin died at school in front of his friends and teachers.

In 2009, Lake Oswego School District contracted Lifeline Health & Safety to schedule 6 First Aid/CPR/AED classes open to school district employees and parents. The fourth class only had 6 people attend, so they decided to stop offering the classes because of the lack of interest and poor attendance. Two of the classes were cancelled because they couldn't get enough people to take a free CPR class. Parents paid their own admission. The school district paid for the staff to attend.

### **How much of an incentive do teachers need?**

#### **A child dies in their school and they still won't take a free CPR class.**

I offered free CPR training to everyone in my son's school when he started kindergarten. No one took me up on the offer. My son's kindergarten teacher told me specifically she wasn't going to take my free class, she didn't care if it was free.

I explained that a child only has 120 seconds to be saved with CPR and that there was no time to go get help, CPR needed to be started immediately. She didn't care, she didn't want to learn CPR.

So, I went to the West Linn-Wilsonville Superintendent and asked why the district doesn't offer CPR training to all teachers. It would cost nothing. The district has CPR instructor nurses that could teach CPR on the in-service days. Its a win win, \$0. They don't do it because they don't have to. West Linn-Wilsonville school district, like all the districts I've called, meets the minimum requirements by law for CPR training.

I asked my superintendent what would happen if my child collapsed in class with his kindergarten teacher who doesn't know CPR. He said, "Don't worry, we meet the state minimum guidelines," the teacher would leave the child to find someone who knows CPR. I explained that by leaving to get help, my son would be allowed to suffer permanent brain damage and cardiac arrest within 2 minutes. According to the American Heart Associations guidelines, my son would be clinically dead within 120 seconds.

His response, "Don't call it 'Dead.' Some people find that word offensive."

That was the day I started working on this bill.

Dwon Guvenir, OR-EMT, AHA Instructor