

Choosing an AED

Project ADAM endorses the purchase of FDA-approved AED units. Each unit has unique features, though they all serve the same purpose: delivering a shock to restore the normal rhythm of the heart.

Check out our [AED Comparison Chart](#) to learn about the different AED types on the market.

Contact the Project ADAM affiliate nearest you for support as they may have a list of local partners and special pricing available.

Questions to consider:

- What is your budget?
- How many units do you need to purchase?
- Can the company provide you with a comprehensive package or additional resources? For example: competitive pricing, electronic AED maintenance program and automated reminders to purchase replacement pads and batteries.
- Does your school or district already have AEDs and recommend choosing the same type?
- Will you have a contact from the company that is available locally if you need support?
- Do you wish to purchase a portable unit as well as a wall-mounted unit(s) and does this company offer that type of model?
- Does the unit have pediatric defibrillation capabilities? (This is asked if the AED will be used on children younger than 8 years or less than 55 pounds).
- What is the longevity of the battery and pads, and how much do replacements cost?
- Is there a product warranty?
- What type of AED does your local EMS use, and do they prefer a certain one?
- Does your school/district medical director (if applicable) recommend a certain one?
- Can the company help you download event data if the unit is used in a cardiac arrest?

Steps for choosing and purchasing an AED:

1. Form a committee; including a representative of your local EMS (this step is recommended but not always necessary).
2. Gather information on AED companies and pricing from your local Project ADAM affiliate.
3. Arrange meetings with the company(s) that fit your needs.
4. Discuss criteria with the committee. Vote on a unit and company of choice.
5. Ensure funding is in place within your budget.
6. Speak with other school districts. Sometimes a group purchase can lower your cost.
7. Arrange a phone call or meeting with chosen vendor to negotiate purchase and delivery.
8. File the purchasing and company contact information in your school records for future purchasing and customer support needs.