



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Randy Matheson | Executive Director
Community Relations | 425.204.2345 |
randy.matheson@rentonschools.us

Hazen High School teacher's decisive action likely saves student's life

Use of a school defibrillator likely kept student's heart beating

June 17, 2009—Hazen High School freshman Henry Flores was coming up on his second lap on the track during a one-mile run as part of his PE class finals, when he collapsed. Students running alongside Henry called out to him, but Henry didn't respond.

Physical education teacher James Landsverk saw Flores' eyes had rolled back and heard him gasping, unable to breathe. Landsverk quickly began performing CPR while telling one student to call 911 and yelling to another to retrieve one of the school's Automated External

Defibrillators (AED) located in the corridor leading to the pool.

"I really just reacted and began doing what I've been trained to do. I wanted Henry to be OK."

—James Landsverk



Hazen High School PE teacher James Landsverk stands near the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) he used to resuscitate ninth-grader Henry Flores who collapsed while taking part in a one-mile run.

Landsverk used the AED to shock Henry's heart muscles back into a regular rhythm. The readout on the machine told Landsverk to continue CPR. Hazen's school nurse Celeste Dillard arrived to take over performing CPR till aid personnel arrived. Within minutes aid personnel were on scene and able to get Flores to breathe on his own. He was transported to Seattle Children's Hospital and Medical Center where he remains in critical condition.

Flores has no prior health condition known to school staff and had made the run before with no problem.

Landsverk, who has worked in the district for two years as a PE teacher and assistant football coach, knew how to operate the AED thanks to training he received in September. An AED is programmed to tell rescuers what to do using voice and visual prompts. Landsverk attached the adhesive electrode pads to the Flores' chest and the AED automatically analyzed the electrical activity of his heart to determine if a rhythm was present. According to data retrieved from the AED after the incident, Flores had no

heart rhythm when the pads were attached to his chest. The charge from the AED likely restarted Flores' heart.

A similar incident happened recently at a Vancouver, Wash., middle school when an eighth-grader collapsed while running during a PE class. School staff performed CPR but no AED was available. The 13-year-old boy died while en route to a hospital.

Renton School District has 38 AEDs placed at all schools: middle and high schools have at least two AEDs. District staff receive CPR classes and training on the defibrillators by the Renton Fire Department.

In 2004, an AED was used by McKnight Middle School nurse Kathy Mahowald to save the life of attendance secretary Wendy Aguilar-Sharp who had lost consciousness at school.

