



PIAA DISTRICT III MEDIA RELEASE

PIAA DISTRICT III AND THE PEYTON WALKER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP



AUG. 11, 2017 – PIAA District III and The Peyton Walker Foundation are pleased and proud to announce a partnership dedicated to advancing their mutual mission: saving lives and enhancing the well-being of students in the District III geographic area.

PIAA District III Chairman Ron Kennedy and Peyton Walker Foundation founder and director Julie Walker will formally announce the partnership at a media conference in the near future.

“This partnership is a win-win for everyone – for students, athletes, parents and fans. Working together, we will protect more hearts and potentially save more lives throughout District III,” says Julie Walker, Foundation Director and Peyton’s mom.

Peyton Walker, a Trinity High School graduate, passed away on Nov. 2, 2013, at the age of 19 as the result of a sudden cardiac arrest incident while at college.

The [Peyton Walker Foundation](#) is committed to increasing awareness and survival rates for Sudden Cardiac Arrest incidents through education, screening and training. Please click on the link or read the attached summary of programs to find out more about the Foundation.

“Raising awareness and increasing survival rates of sudden cardiac arrest – which is the #1 killer of student athletes in our country – is the core mission of The Peyton Walker Foundation.” Ms. Walker said.

“Through this partnership, the Foundation will be able to offer more free heart screening clinics to students in District III, donate and place more Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) throughout the district, and provide more AED & CPR training opportunities to coaches, staff, athletes, students and their families”, she said.

“We are absolutely thrilled to establish this partnership with The Peyton Walker Foundation,” said Mr. Kennedy, athletic director at Donegal High School. “After learning about the great work done by the Foundation, we decided to become actively involved in its mission and have offered our resources for the benefit of all students in District III.”





[PIAA District III](#) administers interscholastic athletics in a 9-county region of southcentral Pennsylvania. The District recognizes that the health and well-being of students is paramount. Partnering with the Peyton Walker Foundation enables District III to promote that goal and vision.

To the financial end, PIAA District III has directed a \$5,000 donation from River Rock Academy CEO Steve Caporferri to the Foundation. This money will go toward the cost of providing heart screenings that are free to the student, the purchase of AED units and AED and CPR training

[River Rock Academy](#) provides customized alternative education for students in the counties served by District III and has generously donated to District III to promote the welfare of its students

Through the partnership, District III has purchased two portable AED units for use at its championship events where no AED unit is available. Additionally, District III will purchase three AED units – which will be matched by the Foundation, bringing the total to 6 AED units - that will be distributed to selected District III schools.

In addition, District III will read a public announcement at all District III playoff events indicating the location of the venue's AED unit. The quick location of the AED and professional application of CPR and the AED has resulted in saving many lives, including those of attendees at sporting events.

Educating the community on how to respond to a cardiac emergency will help to increase survival rates of sudden cardiac arrest.

“Now that PIAA District III will be incorporating an announcement at all sporting events indicating where the AEDs are located, spectators will know where to go to seek this life-saving equipment,” notes Walker. “Hopefully this will get people thinking about what to do in case of an emergency. These announcements should already be standard protocol at every venue across the country. Kudos to District III for leading the way with this change.”

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