

Head Lice (Pediculosis)

Head lice are a common problem among school-aged children and adolescents. The Board of trustees shall take appropriate steps to assist parents/ guardians in addressing and preventing head lice while respecting the confidentiality of students with head lice and limiting disruption to their education.

Lice prevention and management activities are under the direction of the School Nurse. The School Nurse shall conduct the following tasks as well as train and designate other staff members to do the following:

1. Provide general information to parents/ guardians on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice.
2. Encourage parents/guardians to perform regular lice checks on the scalp of their children who attend school, especially when excessive itching is noticed;
3. Conduct checks for head lice in students showing symptoms of head lice; and
4. Notify a student's parent/ guardian if they are found to have head lice and provide resources on appropriate treatment options.

To prevent the spread of head lice at school, students should avoid head-to-head and hair-to-hair contact during activities. Students shall be discouraged from sharing such items as hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, hair accessories, combs, brushes, or towels.

Checking for Head Lice

As described in Policy 3500, parents/guardians shall be informed that the school may conduct head lice checks as described below and shall be given the opportunity to consent to such checks ahead of time or decline to do so.

If a parent/guardian declines to consent to a head lice check for their child, the parent/ guardian shall be notified that the school suspects the student has head lice. The parent will also be

provided with information on head lice treatment and with assistance similar to that provided to parents of students found to have head lice.

Any staff member who suspects a student has head lice shall report this to the school nurse or building principal. The school nurse, building principal, or their designee may train school staff on recognizing signs of head lice.

The District shall not conduct mass lice screenings of students not showing symptoms of head lice.

Students Found to Have Head Lice

Cases of head lice should be managed in ways that reduce disruption to the education process.

In addition to ensuring the District has parent/guardian consent prior to checking a student for head lice, the school nurse, building principal, or designee will immediately notify the student's parents/guardians if signs of lice warranting treatment are found. The parent/guardian will then be requested to begin treatment immediately. The notice shall state that prompt, proper treatment of the head lice is in the best interest of the student and their classmates. The parent/guardian will be requested to pick up their student and begin treatment immediately.

Parents/guardians shall be provided with information on head lice treatment consistent with the recommendations of the school nurse. The information should include details explaining the problem, list the procedures for treatment, and explain any requirements for reentering school. In addition, the school nurse consulted by the District may offer extra help or information to families of children who are repeatedly or chronically found to have head lice.

Students who are found to have lice will be instructed to refrain from making head-to-head contact with others and sharing personal items with other students.

Return to School

The student may return to school once the parent/guardian confirms they have begun an appropriate course of treatment for the student's head lice and no live lice or viable nits are detected by the school nurse or designated school official.

Notification of Head Lice Cases at School

The District will normally send a notification regarding head lice cases to parents/guardians of the students in the affected classroom(s), aside from notifications related to checks of their own

child for head lice. Notifications may also need to be sent to transportation or other areas of the school the student frequently spends time.

First Reading