

HEAD LICE

The Governing Board recognizes that head lice infestations among students require treatment but do not pose a risk of transmitting disease. The Superintendent or designee shall encourage early detection and treatment in a manner that minimizes disruption to the educational program and reduces student absences.

The Governing Board believes that the district's head lice management program should emphasize the correct diagnosis and treatment of head lice in order to minimize disruption of the education process and reduce the number of student absences resulting from infestation. In consultation with the school nurse, the Superintendent or designee may establish a routine screening program to help prevent the spread of head lice.

The Superintendent or designee may distribute information to parents/guardians of preschool and elementary students regarding routine screening, symptoms, accurate diagnosis, and proper treatment of head lice infestations. The Superintendent or designee also may provide related information to school staff.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

School employees shall report all suspected cases of nits or lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible.

If a student is found with active, adult head lice, he/she shall be excluded from attendance for the remainder of the day and parent/guardian directed to have his/her child treated prior to returning to school. The parent/guardian of any such student shall be given information about the treatment of head lice and encouraged to begin treatment of the student immediately and to check all members of the family. The parent/guardian also shall be informed that the student shall be checked upon return to school the next day and allowed to remain in school if no active head lice are detected.

Upon the student's return to school, the school nurse or designee shall check the student for active head lice. If it is determined that the student remains infected with head lice, the school nurse or designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian to discuss treatment. As needed, he/she may provide additional resources and/or referral to the local health department, health care providers, or other agencies.

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

If a student is found consistently infested with head lice, he/she may be referred to a multidisciplinary team, which may consist of the school nurse, representatives from the local health department and social services, and other appropriate individuals, to determine the best

HEAD LICE (continued)

approach for identifying and resolving problems contributing to the student's head lice infestations.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

The Superintendent or designee shall send home the notification required by law for excluded students. (Education Code 48213)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

When it is determined that one or more students in a class or school are infested with head lice, the principal or designee may, at his/her discretion, notify parents/guardians of students in that class or school and provide them with information about the detection and treatment of head lice.

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
48320-48325 School attendance review boards

49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent