

HEAD LICE

The Governing Board believes that the district's head lice management program should emphasize education, preventative measures, the correct diagnosis and treatment of head lice in order to minimize disruption of the education process and to reduce the number of student absences resulting from infestation. At the beginning of each school year the district and/or county health staff will provide an active educational campaign for district families and school staff regarding the district's head lice management program.

If a student is found with active, adult head lice and/or nits, parents are to be immediately contacted and the student excluded from school in order to receive proper treatment. If the child is unable to go home, the school will make reasonable efforts to minimize contact with other students for the remainder of the school day. The students shall not be identified to other students, staff or parents as having head lice.

In order for the student to return to school, the parent shall contact the school office to schedule an appointment for a readmission check. A parent must accompany their child to school for such a readmission check. Students will be readmitted to school ONLY after they have been checked by district health staff or school office personnel and have found to be free of head lice and free of nits. If head lice or nits are present the student will NOT be readmitted to school.

(cf. 5141.3 – Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.6 – Student Health and Social Services)

The Superintendent or designee shall send home the notification required by law, recommended treatment procedures and sources for further information. Such notification will NOT provide the identity of the student found to have head lice. (Education Code 48213)

(cf. 5112.2 – Exclusions from Attendance)

(cf. 5145.6 – Parental Notifications)

Parents and school employees shall report all cases of head lice to the school office as soon as possible. When one student in any class has been identified as having head lice, the district health staff or trained school personnel shall examine the student and other students who are siblings of the affected student or members of the same household as soon as possible.

When one student in any class has been identified as having a head lice infestation, all students in that class shall be examined.

In consultation with the district superintendent and school principal, the district nurse may establish and implement a screening program that goes beyond the routine screening outlined in this policy if it is deemed necessary to address an atypical head lice situation.

(cf. 5125 – Student Records)

The district health staff or school office personnel shall work/meet with the parents/guardians of any student who has been deemed to be a chronic head lice case in order to help minimize the student's absences from school. A chronic case is a child found infested in three separate months during a school year or for six consecutive weeks.

(cf. 5113 – Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5113.1 – Truancy)

HEAD LICE (continued)

District health staff will work with school site personnel and classroom teachers to identify and reduce opportunities for transmission of head lice. This may include, but not be limited to:

- student and parent education
- collaboration with the county
- vacuuming of classrooms
- bagging of classroom stuffed toys, pillows, etc.
- further education of school staff

District health staff shall appropriately document the number of student lice cases on an annual basis.

If Santa Clara County Public Health determines action is required beyond the scope of this policy, the district will work cooperatively with the county to implement their recommendations.

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice and excluded from attendance.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 – Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48210-48216 Persons excluded

49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

Management Resources

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Lice, Nits, and School Policy, Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, May 2001

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Guidelines for Parents on Control of Head Lice, 2006

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

Position Statement: Pediculosis Management, 2005

WEB SITES

California Department of Health Services, Infectious Diseases Branch:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/disb/disbindex.htm>

California School Nurses Organization: <http://www.scno.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parasitic Disease Information, Head Lice:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/lice>

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LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Los Altos, California