

HEAD LICE

The Board of Trustees recognizes that head lice infestations do not pose a health hazard, are not a sign of uncleanliness, and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. The District is committed to maximizing student's academic performance and well-being in a healthy and safe environment.

Because head lice are not uncommon and spread, the Superintendent or designee shall send information about the treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians as needed, to prevent the spread of infestations.

By following the evidence-based recommendations of state and national health organizations, the policies and practices of the District will reduce embarrassment for students and anxiety for parents and school staff and will prevent unnecessary absences and the potential negative effects on academic performance.

The management of pediculosis should not disrupt the educational process. Children found with live head lice shall be referred to the parent for treatment and temporarily excluded from school. (Data does not support school exclusion for nits).

School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible. The nurse or designee shall examine the student and any siblings of affected students or members of the same household. If live lice are found, the parents of the student will be informed that the student will be excluded from attendance at the end of the school day. Parents/guardians shall be informed about recommended treatment procedures and sources of further information.

The Governing Board recognizes that responsibility for the treatment of head lice rests with the home. The principal shall send home the notification required by law for excluded students. The absence shall be treated in the same manner as an excused absence due to a medical problem for a maximum of two days. Excluded students may return to school after they have had treatment and when reexamination by school personnel shows that all lice have been removed.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48210-48214 Persons excluded

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49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

*(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)**(cf. 5141.6 - Student and Social Services)*

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)*

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)

Excluded students may return to school after treatment, and shall be reexamined by the school nurse or designee to determine they are louse free prior to admission to class. BP 5141.33

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

5113.1 Truancy

5125 Student Records

Management Resources:

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Clinical Report Head Lice: Pediatrics, Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, July 2010

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Guidance on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities, 2012

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

Position Statement: Pediculosis Management, 2011

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Head Lice Information for Schools, 2010

Replaces BP/AR 5141.33 (6/09/98))