

### 8454 MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain a healthy learning environment for all students in the school district. One way to maintain this healthy learning environment is to manage pediculosis, a condition of a person having head lice. Head lice are very small insects that have claws that cling to hair and spend their entire life cycle on the heads of people. Head lice do not spread any diseases and having head lice is not prevented by personal or household cleanliness, use of shampoos, or length of hair. All social and economic groups can be affected by head lice. Because it is very difficult to totally prevent head lice infestations in schools where students come into close head-to-head contact with each other frequently, the Board of Education authorizes appropriate steps to manage pediculosis.

The Board recognizes parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice and school staff members will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families in managing pediculosis. The school nurse will compile a Management of Pediculosis Information Packet. The Board of Education's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet and this Policy will be posted on the nurse's page of each school's website. The Information Packet will include information about identifying, treating, and managing pediculosis.

If a student is found to have lice during the school day, he/she will be sent home at the end of the day with a note from the nurse.

All students in the grade will be advised of the existence of lice in the grade.

The student will not be allowed to return to school without approval of the nurse. In order to be readmitted, the parent must provide a letter to the school that states that treatment has begun and there can be no active lice on the student's head. If there are any nits, the student will be permitted to return to school but will need to be reexamined by the nurse on a weekly basis until all nits are gone or the nits are more than a quarter inch from the scalp of the student. The examination for re-admittance to school by the school nurse may be, but is not required to be, in the presence of the student's parent.

All school staff members will not stigmatize and/or blame families who experience difficulty with control measures. All school staff members will act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community regarding issues of head lice.



Each school in the district will educate and encourage students and parents to learn about head lice in an attempt to remove any stigma or to prevent any harassment, intimidation, and bullying associated with this issue. Any instances of harassment, intimidation, and bullying shall be reported and investigated in accordance with the provisions of the district's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy.

Cases of active head lice will be recorded by the school nurse in each school for the purpose of tracking incident rates and mandatory reporting of outbreaks will be done according to the New Jersey Department of Health criteria for reporting outbreaks.

Adopted: January 4, 2017

