

POLICY / PROCEDURES

Head Lice Policy at Hellgate Elementary

Upon review of current literature and research, the head lice policy at Hellgate Elementary has been updated. There is now a "no head lice" policy rather than a "no nit" policy.

- Students with live head lice will be excluded from school until lice are treated. Parents/guardians will be notified and asked to pick up child as soon as possible. Instructions on treating lice will be made available.
- Students sent home with live head lice will need to be re-examined by the school nurse or principal's designee before returning to class. If upon re-examination live head lice are found, the student will be sent home until lice-free.
- Students discovered to have nits but no live lice will not be excluded from school and their parents/guardians will be notified.
- No routine or preventative school-wide surveillance will be done for nits as this has been shown to be ineffective at minimizing outbreaks. (*American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement on Pediculosis 2002, updated in 2009*)

Parent/guardian education and intervention is the key to lice containment.