

# POLICY GUIDE

OPERATIONS  
8454/page 1 of 3  
Management of Pediculosis  
Jun 16

## 8454 MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain a healthy learning environment for all children 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 children come into close head-to-head contact with each other frequently, the Board of Education authorizes appropriate steps to manage pediculosis.

A student who is found to have live head lice will not be permitted to attend school until there are no active lice in the student's hair, proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse, and until all live and/or dead head lice are removed from the student's hair as confirmed by an examination by the school nurse.

The presence of nits (the eggs of lice) without active head lice will not prohibit a child from attending school provided proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse and there is no evidence of active head lice in the student's hair.

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.

If the school nurse determines a student has active head lice or nits, the parent shall be notified by the school nurse as soon as reasonably possible. The school nurse will advise the parent that prompt treatment of active head lice and/or nits is in the best interest of their child and treatment shall be required before the student can return to school. The school nurse will determine to send the child home or have the child remain at school for the remainder of the school day based on the comfort of the child, the degree of the infestation, and the likelihood of the spread of head lice to other students.



# POLICY GUIDE

OPERATIONS  
8454/page 2 of 3  
Management of Pediculosis

The school nurse shall send home to parent's information regarding the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice when a case is found. Parents will be encouraged to help prevent the spread of head lice by being more informed and conducting routine head checks on their children. Children should be referred to their home physician when live lice are found.

The following action will be taken to prevent the spread of head lice in district schools:

1. To help prevent the spread of head lice infestations, school employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse. The nurse shall examine the student. An infestation shall be determined by looking closely through the hair and scalp for nits or live lice.
2. If nits are found but there are no live (crawling) lice on the hair, the nurse shall re-inspect for 3 weeks in a school day.
3. If an active infestation is present (based on the presence of live lice or numerous nits less than 1/4 inch from the scalp) the parent/guardian shall be notified to arrange pick up of their child from school. The parent/guardian shall be provided information on the biology of head lice, methods to eliminate infestation, and directions to examine household contacts for lice and nits.
4. The school nurse shall then examine the affected student's siblings, if any and others likely to have had close head-to-head contact, such as playmates and classmates. A letter will be sent home with classmates asking parents to check their child's heads.
5. Affected students must bring a note from the parent/guardian verifying treatment as soon as possible after notification, based on the discretion of the school nurse. Before re-admittance to the classroom, the school nurse will examine the student's head for live lice.
6. If no live lice are found, the student may return to the classroom.
7. If live lice are found, the student will be returned home for further treatment. The student should be referred to their health care provider if resistance to treatment is suspected.
8. The school nurse shall educate parents on the importance on ongoing daily combing with a metal nit comb until lice and nits are completely eradicated.



# POLICY GUIDE

OPERATIONS  
8454/page 3 of 3  
Management of Pediculosis

Each school in the district will make available to parents the district's Board Policy on the Management of Pediculosis Policy.

All school staff members will maintain a sympathetic attitude and 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.

The school nurse will review methods of control with the classroom teachers. Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.

Each school in the district will educate and encourage children 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.

Medical Reference:  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
CDC Center for Disease Control  
National Association of School Nurses

Adopted: 14 March 2017

