

Madison County Schools

PEDICULOSIS IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Position Statement

It is the position of the Madison County School System that the management of **Pediculosis** should not disrupt the education process. According to The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), head lice is not a disease and does not require that a student with nits be denied attendance in school. This position is supported by the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of School Nurses.

Children found with live head lice or nits will be referred to parents for treatment. ADPH recommendations will then be followed. The school nurse, being the most knowledgeable professional in the school community, will provide guidance to parents/guardians regarding “best practices” for Pediculosis management. The goal of any actions by the nurse is to contain infestation, provide health education for treatment, prevent overexposure to potentially hazardous chemicals, and minimize school absences. Please note the following guidelines for managing Pediculosis in the school setting:

- If a student is suspected of having Pediculosis, the nurse will verify by visual examination with a positive or negative finding.
- The parent will be notified of positive findings, and instructions will be given on how to properly clean the hair, clothes, and other items that may contribute to the spread of head lice.
- The absentee policy as it pertains to Pediculosis will be explained to the parent.
- The nurse will make a determination as to whether a child can return to class based on visual examination.
- If after visual inspection it is determined that proper treatment has not been followed, the student will be sent back home and instructions repeated to the parent.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to follow proper procedures for removing lice so the child can return to school as soon as possible.
- If it is apparent to the school nurse that a family is diligently working to correct the problem, the student may return to class and be closely monitored.

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