

RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROCEDURE: HEAD LICE

- To better manage and to limit the spread of head lice infestations, plus decrease the amount of missed school by students, school employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse. The school nurse shall examine the student. An infestation shall be determined by looking closely through the hair and scalp for viable nits or live lice.
- If nits are found but there are no live (crawling) lice on the hair:
 - the school nurse will call the parent/guardian to inform and have them remove the nits from the child's hair that evening.
 - re-inspect the student's hair the next school day.
- If live lice are found on the hair:
 - The student will be sent home.
 - If a parent/guardian can not be reached then the parent/guardian shall be notified by the end of the day via phone, and/or a note sent home with the student.
 - 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.
 - At the principal's discretion, or three known cases per classroom, the school nurse will notify parents/guardians in the affected classroom to encourage them to check their children. Information/fact sheet will be made available if needed.
- Parents/guardians will be required to verify treatment within 24 hours after notification. Parent/guardian must submit a label or box from treatment product for the purpose of verifying dates and plan for follow up treatment. If the parent/guardian is unable to afford treatment, the student will be referred to The Department of Health.
- Affected students shall be discouraged from direct head to head contact with other students. The nurse shall provide in-service education to staff regarding how to handle nits and/or lice in the classroom.
- Information about head lice will be sent home to all parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year.
- Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.