Sec. 1. REPORTS

Raul Yzaguirre Schools for Success (RYSS) authorities, including the Superintendent, Principals, teachers, school health officials, or counselors, shall report to the local health authority those students attending school who are suspected of having a notifiable condition, as defined by state law and the Texas Department of State Health Services ("TDSHS"). If there is no local health authority appointed or if PC is outside the jurisdiction of a local health authority, the report shall be made to the regional director. *25 TAC 97.2(d), .5(a)*; *Health and Safety Code 81.041–.042*.

a) *Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV*

In addition to the reporting requirements identified above, the Superintendent or designee shall report cases and suspected cases of sexually transmitted diseases in the manner outlined in 25 TAC 97.133. *25 TAC 97.132(a)(1)*.

b) *Penalties*

A person commits a Class B misdemeanor if the person knowingly fails to report a reportable disease or health condition under Health and Safety Code Chapter 81, Subchapter B. *Health and Safety Code 81.049*.

Sec. 2. EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

Principals shall exclude from attendance any student suffering from a communicable condition listed in 25 TAC 97.7(a) until the readmission criteria for the condition are satisfied. *25 TAC 97.7(a)*.

Additionally, Principals shall exclude from attendance any student having or suspected of having a communicable disease designated by the Commissioner of State Health Services as a cause for exclusion. A child excluded for such reason may be readmitted, as determined by the health authority, by:

1. Submitting a certificate of an attending physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant attesting that the child does not currently have signs or symptoms of a communicable disease or to the disease's non-communicability in a school setting;
2. Submitting a permit for readmission issued by a local health authority; or
3. Meeting readmission criteria set by the Commissioner of State Health Services.

25 TAC 97.7(b)-(c).

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Sec. 3. BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

In accordance with guidelines provided by the Texas Education Agency, RYSS shall provide information relating to bacterial meningitis to its students and their parents each school year in a manner ensuring that the information is reasonably likely to come to the attention of the parents of each student. *Education Code 38.0025*.

Sec. 4. ISSUES RELATED TO HEAD LICE

a) *No Exclusions from School*

Students should not be excluded from school due to the presence of head lice. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the TDSHS have noted that there is little evidence that exclusion from school reduces the transmission of head lice.

The goal of lice prevention and control in RYSS is to limit the spread of lice from one student to another through accurate diagnosis and meaningful and consistent communication and education.

b) *Students with Head Lice*

When a student is suspected of having head lice, the school nurse or another school official shall inspect the child. Children shall be inspected by the school nurse or another school official with consideration for privacy and confidentiality.

Any student identified with live lice will be sent home after RYSS contacts the parent. The parent will be advised to treat the child for head lice. Educational materials about treatment and prevention may be given to the parent/guardian.

c) *Parent Notice*

When the school nurse or other school official determines or otherwise becomes aware that a child enrolled in an elementary grade has lice, RYSS shall provide written or electronic notice of that fact to:

1. The parent of the child with lice as soon as practicable, but not later than 48 hours after RYSS, determines or becomes aware of that fact; and

2. The parent of each child assigned to the same classroom as the child with lice not later than the fifth school day after the date on which RYSS determines or becomes aware of that fact.

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The notices provided to parents will include the recommendations of the CDC for the treatment and prevention of lice, and the notice to the parent of each child assigned to the same classroom as the child with lice (as described in item 2 above) may not identify the child with lice.

Education Code 38.031.

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