

BOARD POLICY 5141.33: PEDICULOSIS/HEAD LICE

Comparison Matrix

Section: Students

SUMMARY OF UPDATE

Summary of Update: The updated policy reflects STATE GUIDANCE from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on head lice prevention and control in schools. Following CDPH guidance, the policy...

- 1) deletes routine screening by schools and the school's responsibility to check siblings of infected students,
- 2) adds provision of information to parents/guardians to encourage at-home screening and inspection,
- 3) allows students found with active head lice to stay in school until the end of the school day, and
- 4) gives discretion to the principal or designee to determine whether to send notification and information to parents/guardians when students in a class or school are found infested with head lice.

CURRENT VERSION			REVISED VERSION	CSBA MODIFICATIONS and/or NOTES	
PARA	Section	Sub-Section	August 14, 2012		July 2012
1			The Governing Board believes that the district's head lice management program should emphasize the correct diagnosis and treatment of head lice in order to minimize disruption of the education process and to reduce the number of student absences resulting from infestation. In consultation with the school nurse, the Superintendent or designee may establish a routine screening program to help prevent the spread of head lice.	The Governing Board recognizes that head lice infestations among students require treatment but do not pose a risk of transmitting disease. The Superintendent or designee shall encourage early detection and treatment in a manner that minimizes disruption to the educational program and reduces student absences.	CSBA NOTE: The following optional policy is consistent with the Guidelines on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in March 2012. CDPH guidelines and a position statement by the California School Nurses Organization note that, although lice are a nuisance, they are not associated with the spread of disease and are not highly transferable in the school setting.
				The Superintendent or designee may distribute information to parents/guardians of preschool and elementary students regarding routine screening, symptoms, accurate diagnosis, and proper treatment of head lice infestations. The Superintendent or designee also may provide related information to school staff.	

				<p><i>parents/guardians should revise the following paragraph to reflect applicable grade levels.</i></p> <p><i>The CDPH publishes a brochure for parents/guardians, A Parent's Guide to Head Lice, which is available on the CDPH web site. As discussed in the brochure, the recommended treatment for head lice involves nit combing and use of an over-the-counter head lice shampoo. Prescription treatments are also available.</i></p>
2		<p>School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible. The nurse or designee shall examine the student and other students who are siblings of the affected student or members of the same household.</p>	<p>School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible.</p>	
3		<p>If a student is found with active, adult head lice, he/she shall be excluded from attendance. The parent/guardian of an excluded student shall receive information about recommended treatment procedures and sources of further information. The student shall be allowed to return to school the next day and shall be checked by the nurse or designee before returning to class. Once he/she is determined to be free of lice, the student shall be rechecked weekly for up to six weeks.</p>	<p>If a student is found with active, adult head lice, he/she shall be <i>allowed to stay in school until the end of the school day</i>. The parent/guardian of <i>any such</i> student shall <i>be given</i> information about <i>the treatment of head lice and encouraged to begin treatment of the student immediately and to check all members of the family. The parent/guardian also shall be informed that the student</i> shall be checked <i>upon return to school the next day and allowed to remain in school if no active head lice are detected</i>.</p>	<p>CSBA NOTE: The CDPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and California School Nurses Organization all oppose "no-nit" policies (i.e., policies that require students to be free of nits before returning to school), citing common misdiagnosis by nonmedical personnel, lack of evidence that such policies prevent or shorten outbreaks, and their belief that the benefits of school attendance outweigh the risks of head lice.</p>
4		<p>The Superintendent or designee shall send home the notification required by law for excluded students.</p>	<p>Delete</p>	
		<p>The principal and school nurse shall work with the parents/guardians of any student who has been deemed to be a chronic head lice case in order to help minimize the student's absences from school.</p>	<p><i>Upon the student's return to school, the school nurse or designee shall check the student for active head lice. If it is determined that the student remains infected with head lice, the school nurse or designee shall contact the</i></p>	

			<i>student's parent/guardian to discuss treatment. As needed, he/she may provide additional resources and/or referral to the local health department, health care providers, or other agencies.</i>	
5			<i>If a student is found consistently infested with head lice, he/she may be referred to a multidisciplinary team, which may consist of the school nurse, representatives from the local health department and social services, and other appropriate individuals, to determine the best approach for identifying and resolving problems contributing to the student's head lice infestations.</i>	CSBA NOTE: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. CDPH guidelines recommend that, because continuing infestations may signify other family or socioeconomic problems, a student with a chronic case of head lice (i.e., a student found infested during three separate months during a school year or for six consecutive weeks) should be reported to the school attendance review board and addressed by a multidisciplinary team which may consist of the school nurse, representatives of the local health department and social services, and other appropriate individuals.
6		After three (3) consecutive days of absence with head lice, students within the Silver Valley Unified School District will be referred to the District Nurse. After five (5) consecutive days of absence with head lice, students will be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). Infestation with head lice will not be considered a valid excuse for absences of more than five school days for each infestation.	Delete	
7		When two or more students in any class have been identified as having a head lice infestation, all students in the class shall be examined. In consultation with the school nurse, the principal may also send information about head lice home to all parents/guardians of the students in that class.	<i>When it is determined that one or more students in a class or school are infested with head lice, the principal or designee may, at his/her discretion, notify parents/guardians of students in that class or school and provide them with information about the detection and treatment of head lice.</i>	CSBA NOTE: The following optional paragraph should be revised to reflect district practice. CDPH guidelines state that, although classroom or schoolwide notification is not recommended after student(s) have been detected with head lice, such notification is at the discretion of the school nurse or school administration.

8		Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice and excluded from attendance.	Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.	
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