

Pediculosis

Board Policy: SA-4
Adopted: June 8, 1992
Revised: May 10, 2005

I. General Philosophy:

- A. The Board recognizes that some students come to school with pediculosis (lice) infestations. It is the philosophy of the Board that infested students must receive effective treatment and follow procedures that deter the spread of infestation to other students. This policy establishes school system regulations for the identification, screening, treatment, exclusion and re-admission of staff and students with lice infestations.

II. Identification:

Lice infestation is identified by observing head scratching and the presence of lice or nits (egg cases) in the hair. Teachers, principals, or other school personnel may handle identification procedures or they may refer suspected cases to the school nurse.

III. Procedures:

- A. Staff and students who are infested with lice will immediately be sent home for treatment. The parent or guardian will be contacted to come and pick up the student if possible.
- B. Staff and students in close proximity with the infested staff or students shall be screened.
- C. The parent or guardian shall be informed that treatments are available through physicians, the Public Health Department, or drug stores.
- D. The parent or guardian shall be directed to contact the Public Health Department for appropriate infestation control measures.
- E. Staff and students may return to school when 1) they have been treated with a lice shampoo, 2) all nits are removed from their hair, and 3) they have been given clearance by a physician, the Public Health Department, the school nurse or designated person at the school. The maximum number of excused days will be two full school days. Absences after that will be unexcused.

IV. Compliance:

- A. If certain staff and students are repeatedly infested and there is a question that treatment regimens are not being followed, the school nurse may consult with the Public Health Director to plan necessary communicable disease control steps to prevent the spread of infestation.