

Board Policy

Head Lice

BP 5141.33

Students

Note: The following policy is optional and may be modified to reflect district practice.

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.

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.

Note: Guidelines from the California Department of Health Services (DHS) and a position statement from the California School Nurses Organization recommend that students with nits (lice eggs) be allowed to remain in school and that only students with an active, adult lice infestation be excluded from attendance. The following paragraph is consistent with these recommendations and may be modified to reflect district practice.

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~~ ^{may} be rechecked weekly for up to six weeks.

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

The Superintendent or designee shall send home the notification required by law for excluded students. (Education Code 48213)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

***Note: Guidelines from DHS and a position statement from the California School Nurses Organization recommend that a student with a chronic case of head lice should be reported to the school attendance review board (SARB). A "chronic" case is a student found infested during three separate months in a school year or for six consecutive weeks. Districts that wish to refer such students to the SARB should modify the following optional paragraph accordingly. ***

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.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.1 - Truancy)

***Note: The following optional paragraph should be modified to reflect district practice. ***

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.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

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

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48210-48216 Persons excluded

49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

Management Resources:

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Lice, Nits, and School Policy, Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, May 2001

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Guidelines for Parents on Control of Head Lice, 2006

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

Position Statement: Pediculosis Management, 2005

WEB SITES

California Department of Health Services, Infectious Diseases Branch:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/disb/disbindex.htm>

California School Nurses Organization: <http://www.scno.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parasitic Disease Information, Head Lice:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/lice>

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