

## Title: Head Lice (Pediculosis) Policy

### Control Information

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Owner/Curator	Melissa Harris
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### Revision History

Revision	Date	Revision Description	Originator
A	May 9, 2013	Initial Release	Melissa Harris
B	9/11/2014	Numbering and format revision, revise to comply with District policy	Melissa Harris

## 1.1. Objective:

The objective of this policy is the following:

- 1.1.1. Provide a procedure to help staff identify and manage cases of head lice.
- 1.1.2. Help prevent the spread of head lice among the student population.

## 1.2. Definition and Guidelines for Head Lice Management:

- 1.2.1. Head lice are tiny gray-brown wingless parasitic insects that affect only humans. They live by sucking blood from the scalp. Nits are the tiny translucent, teardrop shaped eggs that are stuck to the base of hairs. An infestation of head lice is known as *pediculosis capitis*.
- 1.2.2. Head lice are not a health hazard or a sign of uncleanliness and are not responsible for the spread of disease. Lice do not hop, fly or jump, they crawl. Transmission in most cases occurs by direct contact, head touching head, of another infested individual. Research indicates that the normal classroom environment is not high risk for the spread of lice.
- 1.2.3. Because a child with an active head lice infestation likely has had the infestation for one month or more by the time it is discovered, an infected child poses little risk to others.

## 1.3. Procedure:

- 1.3.1. If a student appears to have symptoms of head lice, a staff member will perform a screening. If the student is found with live head lice or nits, it is not necessary to send the child home early. He/she will be discouraged from close, direct head-to-head contact with others, and sent back to class.
- 1.3.2. The parents or guardians of a child with an active case of head lice will be notified that prompt, effective treatment is necessary.
- 1.3.3. Current evidence does not support the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of classroom or school-wide screenings for head lice to reduce the number of head lice infestations among school children. If multiple students in the same classroom are found to have active cases of lice, parents of all students in that classroom will be notified that a case of head lice was found at the school and encouraged to check their child(ren) for head lice for the next two weeks and treat appropriately.
- 1.3.4. In accordance with FERPA/HIPPA, the name(s) of affected student(s) will not be disclosed.