

Policy 5141.33: Head Lice

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/01/1999 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/01/2012 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/01/2012

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.

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.

School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible.

If a student is found with active, adult head lice, he/she shall be allowed to stay in school until the end of the school day. The parent/guardian of any such student shall be given information about 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 shall be checked upon return to school the next day and allowed to remain in school if no active head lice are detected.

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 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.

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.

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.

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
Ed. Code 48320-48325	School attendance review boards
Ed. Code 49451	Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent
Management Resources	Description
California Department of Public Health Publication	A Parent's Guide to Head Lice, 2008
California Department of Public Health Publication	Guidelines on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities, rev. March 2012
California School Nurses Organization	Pediculosis Management, Position Statement, rev. 2011
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parasitic Disease Information, Head Lice
Website	American Academy of Pediatrics
Website	California School Nurses Organization
Website	California Department of Public Health

Cross References

Code	Description
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5141.3	Health Examinations
5141.3	Health Examinations
5141.6	School Health Services
5141.6	School Health Services