

## **Head Lice Policy**

**To better manage and to limit the spread of head lice infestations, school employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee. The school nurse or designee shall examine the student. An infestation shall be determined by looking closely through the hair and scalp for viable nits or live lice.**

**If nits are found but there are no live (crawling) lice in the hair, the school nurse or designee shall reinspect within 7-10 school days.**

**If live (crawling) lice are found in the hair, the parent/guardian shall be notified by the end of the day via phone, email, and /or a note sent home with the student. The parent/guardian shall be provided information on the biology of head lice, methods to eliminate infestation, and directions to examine household contacts for lice and nits. The school nurse or designee may notify parents/guardians in the affected classroom to encourage them to check their children and to treat, if appropriate, and/or examine other students most likely to have had direct head to head contact with the affected student.**

**Parents/guardians will be required to verify treatment on designated forms provided by the school nurse/designee. If the parent/guardian is unable to afford treatment, the student will be referred to Health Services.**

**Affected students shall be discouraged from direct head to head contact with other students. The nurse or designee shall provide in-service education to staff regarding how to handle nits and /or lice in the classroom.**

**Information about head lice shall be sent home to all parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year.**

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

### **Sources:**

**Harvard School of Public Health, Laboratory of Public Health Entomology  
American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of School Nurses  
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**Policy established: 4/24/07**

**Reviewed/Revised: 5/10/13**

