

# POLICY

## WYCKOFF BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

### 8454 MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain a healthy learning environment for all children in the school district. One way to maintain this healthy environment is to manage pediculosis, a condition of a person having head lice. Head lice are very small insects that have claws that cling to hair and spend their entire life cycle on the heads of people. Head lice do not spread any diseases and having head lice is not prevented by personal or household cleanliness, use of shampoos or length of hair. All social and economic groups can be affected by head lice. Because it can be difficult to identify and prevent the presence of head lice in schools, the Board of Education authorizes appropriate steps to manage pediculosis.

A student who is found to have active head lice will not be permitted to attend school until there are no active lice in the student's hair, proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse, and until all live and/or dead head lice are removed from the student's hair as confirmed by an examination by the school nurse.

The presence of nits (the eggs of lice) without active head lice will not prohibit a child from attending school as long as proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse and there is no evidence of active head lice in the student's hair. The school nurse shall be granted the discretion to send the student home if live lice are still present after treatment.

The Board recognizes parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice and school staff members will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families in managing pediculosis. The school nurse will compile a Management of Pediculosis Information Packet. The Board of Education's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet and this Policy will be made available to all parents upon request. The Information Packet will include information about identifying, treating, and managing pediculosis.

If the school nurse determines a student has active head lice or nits, the parent shall be notified by the school nurse as soon as reasonably possible. The parent will be provided a copy of the district's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet and this Policy. The school nurse will



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advise the parent that prompt treatment of active head lice and/or nits is in the best interest of their child and treatment shall be required before the student can return to school. The school nurse will determine to send the child home or have the child remain at school for the remainder of the school day based on the comfort of the child, the degree of the infestation, and the likelihood of the spread of head lice to other students. If the school nurse cannot contact the parent, a letter from the school nurse informing the parent of the presence of active head lice or nits will be sent home with the student. In the event the parent cannot be reached on the day it is determined their child has active head lice or nits, the parent will be required to contact the school nurse the next school day to review the Board Policy, the Management of Pediculosis Information Packet, and treatment options.

The following action will be taken to prevent the spread of head lice in district schools:

1. Notification
  - a. When a single case of live head lice has been identified by the school nurse in an elementary school, the parents of all students in that grade level, in the specified school, will be notified by the school nurse.
  - b. When a single case of live head lice has been identified by the school nurse at the middle school, notification to the parents will be at the discretion of the school nurse.
2. Identification and Management
  - a. When a case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, the school nurse shall perform a head check of any of the infested student's siblings in the school. If a sibling(s) attends a different school in the district, the school nurse in the sibling's school will be notified and the school nurse may conduct a head check of the sibling(s). In addition, any time the school nurse has identified active head lice, the school nurse may conduct a head check of other students in the school who are most likely to have had head-to-head contact with the infested child.
3. Education
  - a. Each school in the district will educate and encourage children and parents



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to learn about head lice in an attempt to remove any stigma or to prevent any harassment, intimidation, and bullying associated with this issue. Any instances of harassment, intimidation, and bullying shall be reported and investigated in accordance with the provisions of the district's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy.

A student sent home from school for reasons outlined in this Policy shall be readmitted only upon examination and approval by the school nurse. The examination for re-admittance to school by the school nurse may be, but is not required to be, in the presence of the student's parent.

Cases of active head lice will be recorded by the school nurse in each school for the purpose of tracking incident rates and mandatory reporting of outbreaks will be done according to the New Jersey Department of Health criteria for reporting outbreaks.

Adopted: 8 May 2017

