



SECTION:	Student Management and Welfare	APPROVAL DATE:
SUBSECTION:	Student Welfare	November 1, 1999
POLICY NAME:	Head Lice Control	LAST REVISED:
POLICY NUMBER:	R.SMW.G.7	November 1, 1999

1. PREVENTION

- 1.1 Principals are advised to provide staff with an in-service opportunity on head lice early in the school year. The involvement and participation of the school health nurse at this in-service is encouraged.
- 1.2 After the commencement of classes for the school year, and to provide a general awareness and understanding about head lice, parents are to be informed of procedures that will be followed in the event of an outbreak at school. Parents will be provided with general information about the control and prevention of head lice.
- 1.3 Respectful of the age of the student, the principal, with assistance from the school nurse, should provide students with information about head lice and how head lice are transmitted. The student should be informed of the school's procedure for dealing with an infestation and provided with practical suggestions on how to avoid contacting head lice.
- 1.4 School staff and adult volunteers who assist in the detection of head lice will be appropriately trained by the school health nurse. School staff and volunteers who find a student to be infested with lice will respond sensitively to the student and treat this knowledge in a confidential and discreet manner.

2. ROLE OF THE PARENT

Parents are responsible for meeting their child's personal well being, health and safety needs. In the area of head lice this role may include:

- 2.1 learning how to recognize head lice and at regular intervals checking their child's head;
- 2.2 increasing the frequency of head checks when the child's classmates, close contacts or family members have acquired infestations;
- 2.3 informing the school if the child has acquired an infestation;
- 2.4 disinfecting the child's hair if lice have been found and notifying the school that the appropriate treatment has been completed and that all nits have been removed;
- 2.5 avoiding stigmatizing children who may have acquired infestations;
- 2.6 instructing the child to use only his/her own personal hair brush, comb, clothing, and sports equipment.

3. ROLE OF THE SCHOOL DURING AN OUTBREAK OF HEAD LICE

- 3.1 When a student is suspected of having head lice, the principal, or designate may check the hair of the student suspected of having head lice. In the event that the student is found to be infested, the principal, or designate may also check the hair of siblings within the school and classmates who may have come into contact with the student.

- 3.2 When no one on staff is available to check the head of a student suspected of having head lice, the principal will provide notification to all parents with a child in the class that an outbreak of head lice is suspected. This notification will require the parent to examine the child's head for evidence of infestation and if detected, provide direction on control and treatment.
- 3.3 Upon confirming that a student has head lice the principal will contact the parent and request that the child be removed from school and provided with the necessary treatment. If, the parent cannot pick the student up immediately, the student will be removed from the classroom at the discretion of the principal until the end of the school day.
- 3.4 The parent of the student with head lice will be provided with a letter and brochure that describes the appropriate treatment for the removal of live head lice and nits. In addition the parent will also be provided with a letter that, when signed and returned to the principal, attests that the student has received the appropriate treatment and that the student is free of lice and nits.
- 3.5 The principal upon receipt of the letter will admit the student to class unless there is reason to believe that the student remains infested. At the discretion of the principal a re-check of the student's hair may be completed. If there is evidence of live head lice or the significant presence of nits, the parent will again be informed and the student will not be admitted to class.
- 3.6 When in the opinion of the principal, a student contacts head lice with unusual frequency, the school social worker and public health nurse will be informed and requested to contact the parent to help resolve the problem.
- 3.7 When the parent, after being requested by the principal to provide treatment, refuses to take effective steps to remove lice and the eggs of the lice by treating the child with a prescribed shampoo, the principal shall suspend the student from attendance. (See Ed. Act S23.1). The student will be re-admitted to school upon presentation of the signed letter verifying that the student has received the appropriate treatment and is free of lice and nits.
- 3.8 When a parent refuses a request to permit the principal or designate to check or re-check a student's hair for evidence of head lice infestation, the principal may request that the student's head be examined by a health care professional. A signed statement from the health care professional indicating no evidence of head lice or nits will permit the student to return to class.