

**HEAD LICE**

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.

*(cf. 4131/4231 – Staff Development)*

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 head lice, he/she shall be referred to the health office and it will be determined if the student is allowed to stay in school until the end of the school day, based on age and risk of behaviors that could increase risk of possible transmission to other students. 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.

*(cf. 5141.3 – Health Examinations)*

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.

*(cf. 1020 – Youth Services)*

*(cf. 5113 – Absences and Excuses)*

*(cf. 5113.1 – Chronic Absence and Truancy)*

When it is determined that several 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.

*(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 – Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

*(cf. 5125 – Student Records)*

## HEAD LICE (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

48320-48325 School attendance review boards

49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

*Management Resources:*

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

*Guidelines on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities,*  
rev. March 2012

*A Parent's Guide to Head Lice, 2008*

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

*Pediculosis Management, Position Statement, rev. 2011*

WEB SITES

American Academy of Pediatrics: <http://www.aap.org>

California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>

California School Nurses Organization: <http://www.csno.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Parasitic Disease Information, Head Lice:*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head>

Policy  
adopted: May 9, 1990  
revised: December 11, 2014

**MURRIETA VALLEY USD**  
Murrieta, California