



Student Policies BP 16-17

Board Policy: Head Lice

Background

Head lice are most commonly found in children 3-11 years of age. Head lice do not pose a health hazard, transmit disease, nor serve as a sign of poor hygiene, child abuse or neglect. While head lice are transmitted as a result of direct head-to-head contact, transmission of head lice in the classroom is uncommon. Lice are rarely present in more than 5% of students. School screenings for live lice have not been found to decrease the incidence of head lice in a school community over time. Parents should check their children for lice regularly.

This policy is endorsed by national organizations such as American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association and the National Association of School Nurses.

Policy

- Principal or designee will provide educational information to parents and students about head lice annually.
- Students found with active, adult head lice will be allowed to remain at school in class until the end of the school day. The student will be discouraged from having close, direct, head to head contact with others.
- The parent/guardian of the student will be given information about the treatment of head lice. They will be encouraged to begin treatment immediately and to check all household contacts. The parent/guardian will be informed that the student will be checked upon return to school and allowed to remain in school if no active head lice are detected.
- The parent will bring the student to the school office following treatment to be re-examined by the principal or designee before being allowed to return to school. If there are no live lice found, the student will be sent to class. If live lice are noted, the student will not be allowed to remain at school. The principal or designee will discuss treatment and provide additional resources and/or referrals to the local health department, health care providers or other agencies as applicable. 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/guardian of students in that class or school and provide them with information about the detection and treatment of head lice.

- No school-wide surveillance will be conducted for nits or lice.
- A student with nits and no evidence of live head lice **will not** be excluded from school.
- Staff will maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.

Procedure

- Principal or designee will provide educational information to parents and children about head lice annually.
- Principal or designee will conduct lice inspections (not nit checks) for suspected cases as needed or as referred by a teacher, preferably during non- instruction time.
- Students with head lice will be allowed to stay at school in the classroom until the end of the school day. They will be instructed to avoid head to head contact with others. This includes the sharing of brushes, combs sweaters, scarves, hats or any other item that comes in contact with a person's head.
- Parent/guardian will be notified and provided with instruction on the treatment of head lice and environmental control. Treatment will need to occur that evening.
- The parent will bring the student to the school office following treatment to be re-examined by the principal or designee before being allowed to return to school. If there are no live lice found, the student will be sent to class. If live lice are noted, the student will not be allowed to remain at school. The principal or designee will discuss treatment and provide additional resources and/or referrals to the local health department, health care providers or other agencies as applicable.
- Siblings or close contacts in the classroom will be checked as referred by the classroom teachers only if the student is exhibiting symptoms such as visible nits or lice, scalp itching and/or irritation. Whole classrooms will not be checked.
- If there are more than two students affected in any one classroom, information about head lice may be sent home to all parents/guardians in the class per the principal's discretion.
- Principal or designee will send notification letters to parents of affected children. (Sample letter attached to policy)
- Principal or designee will maintain a list of head lice exclusions so that these children can be re-checked before being re-admitted.
- In a classroom where head lice is found, head to head contact among students and staff should be discouraged. While classroom items are unlikely to be sources of transmission, pillows and other items can be put in a hot dryer for twenty minutes, vacuumed or placed in a sealed plastic bag for two weeks. Daily vacuuming of the classroom until there are no longer students with lice may decrease the possibility of lice transmission.

Board Approved: February 14, 2017

SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

DATE

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Please note that your child was found to have head lice. Head lice occur commonly among school-age children. Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and anyone can get them. Lice do not transmit infections and do not pose a risk to a person's health.

Attached you will find "A Parent's Guide to Head Lice" to assist you in providing prompt treatment for your child. Additional resources can be found at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/HeadLice.aspx>

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>

<http://www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/HeadLicePediculosisCapitis/HeadfirstLiceLessons>

Gateway Community Charters schools have a "no head lice" policy which means that:

- Any student who is noted to have live head lice will be instructed to avoid head to head contact with others and allowed to return to the classroom.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified and instructed on how to treat the infestation.
- Following treatment, a child will be allowed back in school **only** if his/her hair is free of live lice. Returning students will need to report to the office with their parent/guardian to be re-examined by the Principal or designee and may not return to school unless they are free from live lice.

"No Head Lice" policies are supported by national organizations such as American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association and the National Association of School Nurses. Similar policies have been adopted successfully by school systems throughout the country.

We recommend that you check all members of your household for lice and treat them as necessary. We also recommend that you remind your child not to share personal items such as brushes, combs or hats with other students.

If you have any further questions, please consult your healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

Principal's Name

SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS IN INFECTED CLASS

DATE

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Please note that several children in your child's class have head lice. Head lice occur commonly among school-age children. Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and anyone can get them. Lice do not transmit infections and do not endanger a person's health.

Lice pass from person to person by direct contact or by sharing clothing with lice on them. Head lice cause itching, commonly at the back of the head and neck or behind the ears. Many effective creams and shampoos are available over the counter or by prescription from your doctor.

- Gateway Community Charter schools have a "no head lice" policy which means that: Any student who is noted to have live head lice will be instructed to avoid head to head contact with others and allowed to return to the classroom until the head of the school day.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified and instructed on how to treat the infestation.
- Following treatment, a child will be allowed back in school **only** if his/her hair is free of live lice. Returning students will need to report to the office with their parent/guardian to be re-examined by the Principal or designee and may not return to school unless they are free from live lice.

"No Head Lice" policies are supported by national organizations such as American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association and the National Association of School Nurses. Similar policies have been adopted successfully by school systems throughout the country.

We recommend that you remind your child not to share personal items such as brushes, combs or hats with other students.

If you have any further questions, please consult your healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

Principal's Name