

Policy Number: HS 016	Title: Head Lice
Performance Standard: 1302.47	Original Date: 4/2006 Review Date: 5/2020 AC
USD 418 BOE Policy:	Policy Council Approval/Revision: 1/2018, 11/2020 BOE Approval: 3/2018, 10/2020

POLICY:

State, federal and local procedures require that students who are infested with head lice (pediculosis) be excluded from school until they have been treated with an adequate pediculicide (head lice treatment). Kansas regulations no longer require children to be nit free before returning to school.

PROCEDURE:

Students are checked as needed in the classroom for head lice. Any children who have experienced intense itching of the head are taken to the school nurse to be checked for head lice.. The school nurse will then determine the appropriate next steps for the child.

If a student is found to have live lice while at school, the parent or emergency contact person will be contacted to come to take the child home for treatment. The child will be excluded from the classroom until treatment occurs. The family-advocate or nurse will later contact the family to verify and assist with completion of treatment at home. This completion of treatment will include checking with all family members for lice, treating the environment, and a variety of topical treatments proven to be effective against head lice. Nits should be removed from the child’s head. Oral and written information is given to the student’s family to finish treatment prior to returning to school.

Upon returning to school, the student is checked to verify if live lice are evident, the child may return to the classroom if they are live lice free. Classroom staff can do this or by the school nurse. If possible, this will occur with the parent present; however, if live lice are found and the parent is not present, the parent or emergency contact will be located and will pick up the student. If the child misses successive days of school related to head lice, DCF will be contacted to assist the family.

While the classroom environment is not likely to have materials that would carry lice, all stuffed animals, dress up clothes, blankets, etc. will be treated by bagging the materials after they are disinfected and storing them in the bags for two weeks, or by washing and drying the materials in an electric washer and dryer.

Upon identification of head lice in a particular classroom, notes are sent home to all families in the classroom. They will receive information about head lice, how to identify head lice, and the appropriate treatments. Education regarding head lice is also included in the parent orientation packet, and is ongoing throughout the year.