



District Policy on Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Purpose: While head lice infestation is not a public health problem in terms of transmission of disease, it is certainly a nuisance problem for schools and families. Measures to control the spread of head lice are necessary to prevent reoccurrence and lengthy absenteeism as well as divert anxiety concerning lice infestation.

Authority: The parent/guardian is primarily responsible for checking their children for lice and nits. If lice or nits are present, the parent should notify the school nurse or principal and use a safe method to treat the child for the infestation.

The school nurse is responsible to educate children and parents to prevent and treat lice infestations. The school nurse will exclude any child with live lice +/- nits from school until treatment is rendered.

Guidelines:

1. If a student is found to have lice/nits, the parent/guardian will be notified immediately and will be expected to pick up child within one hour of notification.
2. Any student found to have lice/nits will be excluded from school. All students must return to school within 48 hours of exclusion to be checked by the school nurse. If a student does not return to school within 48 hours, additional absences will be considered unexcused and subject to the district attendance policy as stated in the Alabaster Board of Education Code of Conduct.
3. When a confirmed case of lice is determined, close contacts such as friends, family, etc. should be notified and checked by the parent. The school nurse will alert the child's classroom through a letter. Every effort will be made to protect the student's privacy.
4. Written instructions on how to detect, treat, and prevent lice will be sent home with parent/guardian of the excluded student. School nurse will provide education and resources to parents as needed.
5. Students may not ride school bus until checked by the school nurse.
6. The student must be brought to school by an adult and have her/his head checked by the school nurse prior to entering class. If lice/nits are found the student will be sent home. If the student arrives without an adult, the student will be sent to the nurse to wait for an adult to arrive so the student's head can be checked and cleared to enter class.
7. All nits must be removed prior to returning to school.
8. Parents should check nightly for lice/nits for a minimum of 2 weeks.
9. Chronic cases of lice/absenteeism may result in a referral to Early Warning Court per the Alabaster Board of Education Code of Conduct.