KWSALTKTNÉWS NE SECWEPEMCÚL'ECW School District No. 83

Administrative Procedure Manual



ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 330

HEAD LICE IN SCHOOLS

BACKGROUND

Head lice are common, can affect anyone, and may spread in any situation where people gather. It is likely that children enrolled in school may come into contact with head lice. They are annoying and may cause itching but do not transmit disease. The presence of head lice is not a health concern and is not a reflection of the level of cleanliness in a home or parenting skills. However, there continues to be unnecessary stigma about head lice. Reactions to head lice by both children and adults can subject children to teasing, bullying, and isolation, and may significantly interfere with a child's well-being, social status in the classroom, and the ability to learn. For these reasons, head lice cases should be managed with confidentiality and sensitivity, protecting the dignity and privacy of the child at all times.

School District No. 83, in partnership with Interior Health, believes that the responsibility for controlling head lice lies with the family. The school's role is to provide education about regular home checks, treatment, and prevention of head lice. There is no medical reason to exclude a child with head lice from school. Current research shows that school exclusion, sending students home, and no-nit policies do not prevent or control head lice cases. In fact, these practices further stigmatize those with head lice.

PROCEDURES

- 1. Schools are to provide communication at the beginning of each school year about the importance of home checks and the prevention and treatment of head lice.
- 2. Schools must maintain confidentiality and sensitivity to protect the privacy of students with head lice or suspected head lice.
- 3. Schools do not conduct universal head lice checks.
 - 3.1. Schools may conduct a private lice check for a student with suspected head lice.
- 4. If head lice are detected at school, provide personal communication in the form of a phone call (preferred) or email, if necessary, with the parent/caregiver/guardian of the affected student(s).
 - 4.1. Communication about the presence of head lice in the class may be provided to other families.
- 5. Students with head lice may remain at school and may continue to have contact with other students.
- 6. If cost is a barrier to families, the school will make every effort to provide lice treatment supplies.

References: Interior Health Resources - How to Check for Head Lice; Recommended Head Lice Management & Treatment Options; Treatment Tips for Parents; Tips for Schools Dealing with head Lice; Head Lice: What You Should Know - Information for Schools and Families; Board Policy 1030

Date Approved: February 2, 2025