

## **Kalispell Public School District**

### **STUDENTS**

3420

#### Head Lice (Pediculosis)

The Board recognizes its responsibility to all students enrolled in the Kalispell Public Schools to provide a safe and healthy environment. Kalispell Public Schools head lice policy and procedures are based on current, evidence based practices recommended by the Centers of Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatricians and the National Association of School Nurses.

When a parent or school staff member suspect a child has head lice, a school nurse or specifically identified staff member at each district building, will confirm the presence in suspected cases. Since current medical research supports the notion that head lice are not a health hazard, are unlikely to be transmitted in the school setting and if present, likely to have been present for several weeks in a child, confirmation will be timely but not necessarily immediate.

School nurses/school staff will communicate with the parent of infested student if an active case of head lice is confirmed. Emphasis is placed on giving parents accurate information. The student may return to class for the remainder of the day with the expectation that parents will provide treatment that day after school. Staff will monitor students with known recent history of lice infestation. Students will not be excluded from school for the presence of live lice unless it is determined there is an unusually high risk of transmission. There is no requirement to be nit free for school attendance.

While staff often know that a student has/had head lice, it is generally not essential that staff know what students have head lice in order to employ standard preventative measures in the classroom. Nurses/Staff will protect confidentiality of students by providing private settings for examination of hair and discussion with student and parent to the extent the school environment allows. In order to further protect confidentiality of students, classroom letters will not be sent home notifying parents of identification of head lice in individual cases. If/when there are multiple confirmed cases of head lice and/or reason to believe there is a higher risk of spreading to other children, the building principal and school nurse may make the determination to communicate general information with families in the affected classrooms. Information will be made available, including on the district website, in order to promote accurate information and treatment.

Head Lice Administrative Procedures [linked here](#)

#### Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on: 12/11/2018