

**HEAD LICE**

~~The Superintendent shall develop procedures for screening and preventing the spread of head lice in district schools in accordance with the North Dakota State Department of Health recommendations. Screening will be performed in a nondiscriminatory manner and when there is reasonable suspicion of a lice infestation.~~

~~Students found to be infected with lice or nits (eggs) shall be sent home as soon as practicable and shall not be readmitted into district schools until free of lice and/or nits as certified by a qualified medical professional. Absences resulting from lice or nit infestations will be excused; however, students excessively absent as a result of lice/nit infestations shall be deemed to be in violation of the compulsory attendance law and shall be reported in accordance with law.~~

~~The District shall make an effort to assist in head lice prevention. Administration should issue guidance to parents on an annual basis on head lice screening techniques and prevention. The District may perform a head lice screening on any student exhibiting symptoms of a lice infestation and/or will notify the child's parent/guardian of the suspected infestation. The District may also perform a head lice screening on any student who has had head-to-head contact with an infested student and/or will notify the child's parent/guardian that the child has been directly exposed to head lice.~~

~~Administration should issue information to classroom teachers on head lice symptoms and prevention. Upon learning that a student is infested with head lice, district staff members shall report this information to the building principal. The building principal shall work with affected teachers and other necessary district personnel (as determined by administration) to implement a plan to reduce head-to-head contact among students.~~

**Reporting Infestations & Confidentiality**

~~The Superintendent shall develop material and a protocol for informing the parent of a lice-infested student of the infestation and treatment methods. The Superintendent shall also develop a procedure for alerting the parents of students who were exposed to the infected student. This procedure shall prohibit release of the infected student's personally identifiable information unless an exception applies under FERPA (e.g., release to educational officials with a legitimate need to know).~~

~~This confidentiality provision does not prohibit teachers or administrators from reporting suspected child abuse/neglect as required by law.~~

~~The District shall report lice infestations to the North Dakota Department of Public Health but shall not disclose the infected student's personally identifiable information to the state without parental consent unless the infestation poses a health or safety emergency.~~

REFERENCE:  
09/10

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POLICY ADOPTED:  
POLICY AMENDED: