

POLICY

**NORTHVALE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPERATIONS**

**MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS
8454/Page 1 of 2**

8454 – MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain a healthy learning environment for all children in the school district. One way to maintain this healthy learning environment is to manage pediculosis, a condition of a person having head lice. Head lice are very small insects that have claws that cling to hair and spend their entire life cycle on the heads of people. Head lice do not spread any diseases and having head lice is not prevented by personal or household cleanliness, use of shampoos, or length of hair. All social and economic groups can be affected by head lice. Because it is very difficult to totally prevent head lice infestations in schools where children come into close head-to-head contact with each other frequently, the Board of Education authorizes appropriate steps to manage pediculosis.

A student who is found to have active head lice will not be permitted to attend school until there are no active lice in the student's hair, proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse, and until all live and/or dead head lice are removed from the student's hair as confirmed by an examination by the school nurse.

The presence of nits (the eggs of lice) without active head lice will not prohibit a child from attending school provided proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse and there is no evidence of active head lice in the student's hair.

The Board recognizes parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice and school staff members will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families in managing pediculosis.

If the school nurse determines a student has active head lice or nits, the parent shall be notified by the school nurse as soon as reasonably possible and the student will be sent home to be treated. The school nurse will advise the parent that prompt treatment of active head lice and/or nits is in the best interest of their child and treatment shall be required before the student can return to school. If the school nurse cannot contact the parent a communication from the Principal informing the parent of the presence of active head lice or nits will be sent home. In the event the parent cannot be reached on the day it is determined their child has active head lice or nits, the parent will be required to contact the school nurse the next school day.



POLICY

**NORTHVALE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPERATIONS**

**MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS
8454/Page 2 of 2**

When a single case of active head lice or nits has been identified by the school nurse, parents of all students in the affected grade level will be notified by the administration. The school nurse will perform a head check of all students in the affected grade level and contact the parents of any other students who are found to have lice. The sibling students of any affected students will also be checked and if confirmed to have lice, that sibling's grade level will be checked.

All school staff members will maintain a sympathetic attitude and will not stigmatize and/or blame families who experience difficulty with control measures. All school staff members will act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community regarding issues of head lice.

The district will educate and encourage students and parents to learn about head lice in an attempt to remove any stigma or to prevent any harassment, intimidation, and bullying associated with this issue. Any instances of harassment, intimidation, and bullying shall be reported and investigated in accordance with the provisions of the district's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy.

A student excluded from school for reasons outlined in this Policy shall be re-admitted only upon the examination and approval of the Principal or designee and the school nurse. The examination for re-admittance to school by the school nurse may be, but is not required to be, in the presence of the student's parent.

Adopted: March 18, 2019

