MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS
Board Policy

BP 5141.33

STUDENTS

Head Lice

The Governing Board recognizes that head lice infestations among students require treatment but do not pose a risk of transmitting disease. The Superintendent or designee shall encourage early detection and treatment in a manner that minimizes disruption to the educational program and reduces student absences.

The Superintendent or designee may distribute information to parents/guardians of preschool and elementary students regarding routine screening, symptoms, accurate diagnosis, and proper treatment of head lice infestations. The Superintendent or designee also may provide related information to school staff.
School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible.

If a student is found with active, adult head lice, they shall be allowed to stay in school until the end of the school day. The parent/guardian of any such student shall be given information about the treatment of head lice and encouraged to begin treatment of the student immediately and to check all members of the family. The parent/guardian also shall be informed that the student shall be checked upon return to school the next day and allowed to remain in school if no active head lice are detected.

Upon the student's return to school, the school nurse or designee shall check the student for active head lice. If it is determined that the student remains infected with head lice, the school nurse or designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian to discuss treatment. As needed, they may provide additional resources and/or referral to the local health department, health care providers, or other agencies.

If a student is found consistently infested with head lice, they may be referred to a multidisciplinary team, which may consist of the school nurse, representatives from the local health department and social services, and other appropriate individuals, to determine the best approach for identifying and resolving problems contributing to the student's head lice infestations.

STUDENTS

Head Lice

Legal References:
EDUCATION CODE
48320-48325 School attendance review boards
49451 Physical examinations; parent's refusal to consent

Management Resources:
CALIFORNIA DEPARMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICATION
Guidelines on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities, rev. March 2012
A Parent's Guide to Head Lice, 2008
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION
Pediculosis Management, Position Statement, rev. 2011
WEBSITES
American Academy of Pediatrics: https://www.aap.org/
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parasitic Disease Information, Head Lice: https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html
California School Nurse Organization: https://www.csno.org/
California Department of Public Health: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/

Cross References (cf):
5113 – Absences And Excuses (N/A)
5113.1 – Chronic Absence And Truancy (N/A)
5113.1 - Truancy
5125 – Student Records (N/A)
5125 – Student Records Confidentiality
5141.3 – Health Examination
5141.6 – School Health Services (N/A)
5141.6 – Aid for Students in Need

ADOPTED: June 20, 2022