

## **Dilley ISD Head Lice Policy**

Head lice, although not an illness or a disease, is very common among children and is spread easily through head-to-head contact. Dilley ISD has implemented the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. Students noted with live lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they go home at the end of the day, are treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Dilley ISD does not advocate the "no nit" policy.

### General Guidelines

If a student is noted for excessive scratching of the head, he/she is sent to nurse's office. The nurse will examine for head lice and eggs/live nits.

- If findings are present for lice and/or live nits, it is documented.
- Each student's parent/guardian will be contacted and instructed to begin the initial hair treatment for head lice. A form indicating their child has head lice and/or live nits and educational fact sheets will be sent home with student.
- The student will remain in school. There is no statute in Texas that addresses excluding children with head lice from school.
- No whole class head checks are warranted.
- The student can return to school after one medicated shampoo treatment has been given. Parents must bring child to nurse's office to re-check hair before returning to the classroom. No lice can be present. If the child is noted to still have lice, then the parent will be instructed to take child home and comb out the head lice.

The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments and how best to get rid of lice and prevent their return.

Every effort will be made to insure the privacy of the child.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the TDSHS Web site at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm>.