

Board Policy

Shelley Joint School District No. 60, in order to help maintain a healthy environment in the school system, is adopting the following to control the problem of head lice in the schools. Head lice is a common occurrence, and is easily transmitted, in classroom situations. It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of the Shelley Joint School District No. 60 to establish a “nit-free” environment. “Nit-free” indicates that any student found to possess head lice or their “nits” will be excluded from school until treatment is completed and all “nits” are removed.

Suggested Implementation Guidelines

In order to implement the above policy, the following guidelines are established:

1. Definitions:

- A. Head Lice – The common name for Pediculosis Capitis, a parasite found only on the human hair and scalp.
- B. Nits – The egg case of Pediculosis Capitis most often found attached to hair shafts.
- C. Pediculosis Association refers to the:
 - National Pediculosis Association
 - P.O. Box 149
 - Newton, Massachusetts, 02161
- D. No-Nit Policy - Requires that treatment for head lice and removal of all nits as approved by the National Pediculosis Association.
- E. Target School – Any school which historically seems to exhibit a propensity of having students with head lice.

2. Under the direction of the Administrators and staff, the District will provide information to parents relative to Pediculosis. Such may take the following forms:

- A. Posters – Posters explaining head lice may be placed in buildings throughout the District.
- B. The building principal will have available current information regarding head lice as provided by District VI Health Department.
- C. A video regarding treatment and prevention of head lice will be made available to all classes at each school, and students will engage in a brief discussion relative to Pediculosis. The district video is also available to be checked out to parents.
- D. Information concerning the District’s policy and procedures will be provided to parents of the District.
 - 1) Appropriate names and numbers for further information concerning Pediculosis will be made available as part of all brochures, including the phone number for the National Pediculosis Association of 1-800-LICEOFF, and the 617-449 NITS number for more explicit information.

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3. If it is determined by the Building Principal that students in the entire school, or in target classrooms need to be checked, the following procedures will be followed:
 - A. Designated school and community personnel will be trained and inserviced by the public health nurse and/or other qualified person(s) to inspect for head lice and nits. They will assist the school in checking for head lice. If any student is suspected of having lice or nits, that student will be given a second check by another trained individual.
4. Should one student be identified, the Principal may take one or all the following procedures:
 - A. A check of all students within that classroom by those appropriately trained.
 - B. A check of siblings of the infected student.
 - C. A check of friends or close contacts throughout the school who may or may not be in the same grade.
 - D. If students change classes, others in each of the infected student's class may be examined.
5. Should any student be determined to have lice or nits, the following procedures will be taken:
 - A. The student's parent/guardian will be immediately contacted by phone, and the student excluded from school, and placed in the custody of the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be given proper notification of the results of the check, along with a copy of the procedures required to be completed prior to the student's reentry into the school as attached and made part of this policy.
 - B. The parent/guardian will be presented with the literature regarding treatment and prevention of lice and nits. If the student is absent more than two days, a school representative will contact the family.
 - C. The student will be checked by school personnel upon readmission. If the student is found to still have nits, the student will be sent home again.
 - D. The student will be referred to the district health personnel if the condition recurs or persists after the second treatment. Should no nits or lice be found the student should be immediately readmitted to the school and classroom. Such examinations to determine that the student is "nit-free" will be made by the principal or those trained under his/her direction.
6. Any student reentering the school "nit-free" will be checked not more than ten (10) days later by the appropriately-trained personnel to assure that the student has not been reinfected.
7. In order to avoid embarrassment to the student and his/her family, every effort will be made to maintain the confidentiality of any student who is diagnosed as having head lice. Only those who have a "need to know" will be informed of the situation.
8. Since some parents object to having their students examined, such parents must have on file with the Principal of the school a written objection to their child being

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checked for head lice. Should it be determined that the child would fall in a sample group to be tested, contact will be made with the parent, notifying the parent to have the check made by the Health Department, physician, or other certified individual. A written verification of the inspection, along with verification that the student is not infected with head lice or nits, must accompany the student's return to the school.

9. Use of a pesticide to control lice or nits in the school by school personnel will not be allowed unless approved by the school district Superintendent after consultation with health personnel.
10. Should the head lice problem become epidemic, a medical doctor will be consulted to help deal with the situation.

Revised: April 27, 2000