

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**  
**GENERAL GUIDELINES for PEDICULOSIS -HEAD LICE**

**Purpose**

To provide guidelines for the prevention and control of further infestations of head lice in the students attending McAllen ISD by:

- Managing the student with pediculosis in order to prevent further infestations of other children.
- Maintaining and improving school attendance.
- Minimizing the disruption of the learning process to improve academic achievement.

**Guidelines**

McAllen ISD is committed to maximizing the students' academic performance and physical well being in a healthy, motivational, and safe environment.

**Comprehensive School Health Services** will practice the following to control pediculosis infestations among students by addressing live lice infestations, controlling lice and nit proliferation, prevention education, and enforcement of the treatment guidelines.

**Comprehensive School Health Services** defines a healthy and safe environment as one in which adults work together to provide for the health and well-being of students with head lice by:

- Maintaining student confidentiality and promoting self esteem
- Educating staff, students, and parents/guardians about head lice
- Establishing evidence based management for students with head lice

The goal of providing a healthy and safe environment for students with head lice is to:

- Minimize absences due to unnecessary exclusion of students with head lice.
- This district does NOT adhere to a "no nit" policy, with our goal being to keep the student in class and to work with the parent to resolve any problems.

**Parent notification letters will be sent home in the event a student is identified with head lice or nits for elementary campuses and if deemed necessary at the secondary campuses.**

**Education**

- The school nurse is available to inform parents in procedures of prevention, detection, and treatment of lice as needed.
- Literature will be available for students, staff and parents.
- Additional information is available at <http://www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/SCRATCHHeadLiceResources>.  
<http://www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/HeadLicePediculosisCapitis/LiceLessons>

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**Identification**

Identification by the school RN or School Health Assistant involves inspection of the student's head, examining for live head lice and/or nits.

**Examination is initiated when:**

1. Nurse/teacher observes either live lice/nits on a student's head, constant scratching or infection of the scalp
2. The student complains of scalp irritation and/or itching
3. A parent reports suspicion or confirmation of head lice
4. Siblings of a confirmed case have been identified
5. School nurse deems a classroom screening advisable

**Live Lice**

**Exclusion**

- All students identified with **live lice** will have parents/guardians contacted and be sent home. If parents/guardians are unable to come for student, student is to remain in the nurse's office until parents can pick up.
- Parents/Guardians will be advised to treat their child for head lice. It's recommended the name of the treatment product be written by the parent/guardian on the treatment letter.
- Upon returning to school, the student should be cleared by the school nurse prior to reporting to class.
- If there is still evidence of live lice, the child will not be allowed to remain in school.
- A medical referral will be provided to the parent for student evaluation.
- Documentation will be kept on the student's health record regarding all assessments, referrals, recommendations, home visits to conference with the parent, and notifications to administrators.

**Nits**

- If nits are noted, student will remain in school and parent will be contacted. A lice/nit notice will be sent home. Parent will be encouraged to remove nits.
- A medical referral will be provided to the parent for student evaluation.

**Absence from school for head lice treatment is not necessary and therefore will be counted as an unexcused absence.**