



POLICY 5.325

5-D I recommend that the Board approve the proposed new Policy 5.325, to be entitled "Pediculosis (Head Lice) Prevention and Control."

[Contact: Judith Klinek, PX 43876; Lashandra Span, PX 48791.]

Development

CONSENT ITEM

- This new Policy would supersede Directive 5.102, which the District has relied upon since 1977 for guidance in preventing and controlling head lice in the schools.
- The heads of individuals suspected of having head lice will be screened by the principal's designees with assistance from the School Health Program; however, screening entire classes is not in the best interest of the educational process.
- A student with an identified infestation of lice or nits would be excluded from school, as soon as is practically possible or at the end of the school day, to obtain treatment (and will be allowed to return when free of lice). However, students shall not be prevented from participating in the continuation of their education solely on the basis of a diagnosis of pediculosis.

POLICY 5.325

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) PREVENTION AND CONTROL

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5 1. Purpose.-- The School Board recognizes that management of pediculosis
6 (infestation of head lice, *pediculus humanus capitis*) depends on prompt case
7 identification, effective treatment, and education regarding prevention of the spread
8 of these ectoparasites.
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- 10 2. Background and Symptoms. The Board recognizes that:
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 - 12 a. Head lice are caused by small parasitic insects found on the heads of people
13 and can be easily spread by someone who already has lice. Pediculosis is
14 extremely common; an estimated six to twelve million people in the United
15 States are infested each year.
 - 16
17 b. There are three forms of head lice: nits (eggs), nymphs (immature lice) and
18 adults. Nits are firmly attached to hair, are hard to see, are often confused
19 with dandruff, and hatch in about one week. Nymphs feed on human blood
20 and mature into adults within one week. Adult lice are about the size of a
21 sesame seed and can live on a human for about 30 days. If a louse falls off a
22 person, it dies within two days.
 - 23
24 c. Head lice crawl but do not hop or fly. Head lice do not spread diseases and
25 their presence does not constitute an emergency.
 - 26
27 d. Symptoms of head lice infestation may include a feeling of something moving
28 in the hair; or itching caused by an allergic reaction to the bites; irritability; and
29 sores on the head caused by scratching that can become infected.
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- 31 3. Prevention and Information.-- In collaboration with the School Health Program, the
32 principal will permit informational letters and educational materials regarding head
33 lice to be distributed to specific classes as well as to the general student and
34 parent population as necessary.
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- 36 4. Screening.-- The heads of individuals suspected of having head lice will be
37 screened by the principal's designees with assistance from the School Health
38 Program. Because mass screening programs have not had a significant effect on
39 the incidence of head lice in the school setting over time and have not proven to be
40 cost effective, the entire class should not be screened unless multiple individuals
41 are affected.
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- 43 5. Response to Identified Infestations
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- 45 a. The principal is responsible for ensuring that contact with the student's
46 parent/guardian has been attempted and for excluding from school any
47 student who is found to have lice or nits, as soon as is practically possible or
48 at the end of the school day. All reasonable efforts will be made to prevent
49 close contact of affected students with others until dismissal.
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- 51 b. The principal will permit the re-admission of any students after they are
52 determined to be free of lice or nits by the school nurse or assigned designee.
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- 54 c. Persistent problems will be referred, by the school nurse or principal's
55 designee, to appropriate agencies for assistance.
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57 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.41(1) & (2); 1001.42 (22); 1006.07;
58 1006.062

59 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 1004.41(6) (a); 1003.22; 1006.07; 1006.62

60 HISTORY: New: / /2006

Legal Signoff:

The Department of Legal Services has reviewed proposed Policy 5.325 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

Attorney

Date