

POLICY 5.323

- 5-A** I recommend the Board approve the proposed new Policy 5.323, to be entitled "Pediculosis (Head Lice) Prevention and Control."

[Contact: Lashandra Span, 434-8791; or Ron Armstrong, 434-8821.]

Development

CONSENT ITEM

- This Policy is based on, and supersedes, Directive 5.102.
- The members of the Palm Beach County School Health Program collaborated to draft a revision to the existing Directive 5.102, as the basis for this Policy. The members include personnel from the Palm Beach County Health Department, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton Community Hospital, and the School District of Palm Beach County.
- Key changes to the existing Directive, to be incorporated in this new Policy, are as follows:
 - The principal/principal's designee/school nurse are empowered to provide preventative information to parents/guardians at times which have been proven to thwart the occurrence of head lice in schools, e.g. vacations.
 - Consistent with the concerns of the CTA, only non-instructional staff (as designated by the principal) will perform classroom head-lice checks, during those times in which such checks are deemed necessary.
 - Exclusion from school, related to pediculosis, will occur only for students who have been found to have live head lice. In keeping with the No Child Left Behind Act, exclusion will commence at the end of the school day rather than immediately after the presence of live lice has been confirmed.
 - Students found to have nits only, will be monitored by the school nurse/principal's designee once per week for two weeks, and they will not be excluded from school unless and until the presence of live head lice is discovered.

NEW POLICY 5.323

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) PREVENTION AND CONTROL

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3 1. Purpose.-- The Board recognizes that pediculosis (head lice) is spread through
4 direct head-to-head contact with an infested person and/or indirect contact with the
5 personal articles of an infested person (especially articles such as combs, brushes,
6 hats, and sleeping bags), and control depends on prompt case findings, proper
7 management, and effective treatment.

8 2. Prevention and Detection.-- The principal is responsible for implementing the
9 following procedures:

10 a. Send out information to parents/guardians three times per year: The start of
11 the school year; after winter vacation; and after spring break. These notices
12 remind parents/guardians to screen the child's hair once per week, every
13 week, and to contact the school nurse for information.

14 b. Educational programs will be provided to school staff, parents, and community
15 groups by the school nurse or principal's designee as needed.

16 c. Screenings for head lice may be performed by non-instructional personnel or
17 school volunteers trained by appropriate personnel as designated by the
18 principal. In an effort to decrease school absences, principals are encouraged
19 to schedule screenings on Friday(s), as this will allow parents time to address
20 the issue before the next school day. All students with suspected infestations
21 will be sent to the school nurse to verify a positive screening.

22 d. Students with nits only will be monitored for live lice weekly, for two weeks, by
23 the school nurse or principal's designee. If the student remains free of live lice
24 by the end of the two weeks, monitoring will be discontinued.

25 e. The principal is responsible for arranging for special cleaning and vacuuming
26 of any classroom with persistent infestations.

27 2. Handling Live Infestations.-- Upon discovery that a student has live head lice,
28 the school nurse will contact the custodial parent(s)/guardian, and the student may
29 be returned to class until the end of the school day, at which time temporary
30 exclusion from school will begin. School personnel must make appropriate efforts
31 to protect the privacy of the student's condition. The school nurse will provide
32 management instructions for the parent/guardian.

33 3. **Reinstatement.**-- The principal/designee is responsible for arranging for a student
34 who has been excluded from school due to live head lice to be readmitted after the
35 school nurse, or appropriate personnel as designated by the principal, has
36 determined that the student is free of live lice.

37 4. **Reporting.**-- The principal will report persistent instance of live head lice (i.e. three
38 instances of an individual student within six weeks) to the District's health specialist
39 in Student Services and request any assistance which might be needed.

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41 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §§ 1001.41(2); 1001.42(22); 1001.43(7), Fla. Stat.

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43 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: §§ 1001.41(1), (3); 1001.42(6); 1001.43(7)(a), Fla. Stat.

44
45 HISTORY: New / /03

Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 5.323 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

Attorney

Date