

BP 5141.33  
Head Lice

The Governing Board believes that the district's head lice management program should emphasize the correct diagnosis and treatment of active head lice infestations in order to minimize disruption of the education process and to reduce the number of student absences resulting from infestation.

School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible. The nurse or designee shall examine the student.

If a student is found with active, adult head lice, he/she shall be excluded from attendance. The parent/guardian of an excluded student shall receive information about recommended treatment procedures and sources of further information. The student shall be allowed to return to school the next day if the student is free from active adult head lice; the student shall be checked by the nurse or designee before returning to class. Once he/she is determined to be free of lice, the student shall be rechecked weekly for up to six weeks.

The Superintendent or designee shall send home the notification required by law for excluded students.

The principal and school nurse or designee shall work with the parents/guardians of any student who has been deemed to be a chronic head lice case in order to help minimize the student's absences from school.

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice and excluded from attendance.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[48210-48216](#) Persons excluded

[49451](#) Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

Management Resources:

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Lice, Nits, and School Policy, Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, May 2001

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

Guidelines on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities,  
2009

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

Position Statement: Pediculosis Management, 2005

WEB SITES

California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>

California School Nurses Organization: <http://www.scno.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parasitic Disease Information, Head Lice:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/lice>

Policy BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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