



VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Department of Student Support Services
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*Serving the communities of Vista, Oceanside,
San Marcos, Carlsbad and San Diego County*

Board Members
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Martha Alvarado
Debbie Morton
Rosemary Smithfield
Cipriano Vargas

Superintendent
Dr. Linda Kimble

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are providing this information to parents to increase head lice awareness so that you may take steps at home to help prevent your child from contracting head lice. Any time children come together, such as the beginning of the school year and at sleepovers, head lice cases commonly increase. Please encourage your child not to share or trade personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, headbands, or barrettes.

Check your child's head weekly for lice and/or nits (eggs). Mature lice move quickly and can be hard to see. Direct head-to-head contact is the usual method of transmission. Lice do not jump, fly, or swim. They are, however, good crawlers. Nits are often found close to the scalp, mainly behind the ears and neckline. They look like tiny whitish ovals that are glued to the hair shaft. Unlike dandruff and styling product residue, they cannot easily be flicked away.

If you find head lice on your child, please treat them before sending them back to school. Treatment should also include washing bedding and hair brushes or combs in hot water. Continue to examine all family members regularly, treating any lice found and combing out nits on a daily basis. Head lice do not spread disease and are not a serious medical condition. They cannot survive on pets.

Check Regularly – Treat Quickly

Help Keep Head Lice off Your Child

For more information on head lice or its treatment, please feel free to contact your school's health office. Thank you for your help and support.

VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students

BOARD POLICY No. 5141.33: HEAD LICE

The Board of Trustees recognizes that head lice infestations among students require treatment but do not pose a risk of transmitting disease. The Superintendent or designee shall encourage early detection and treatment in a manner that minimizes disruption to the educational program and reduces student absences.

The Superintendent or designee may distribute information to parents/guardians of preschool and elementary students regarding routine screening, symptoms, accurate diagnosis, and proper treatment of head lice infestations. The Superintendent or designee also may provide related information to school staff.

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

If a student is found with active, adult head lice, he/she shall be allowed to stay in school until the end of the school day. The parent/guardian of any such student shall be given information about the treatment of head lice and encouraged to begin treatment of the student immediately and to check all members of the family. The parent/guardian also shall be informed that the student shall be checked upon return to school the next day and allowed to remain in school if no active head lice are detected.

Upon the student's return to school, the school nurse or designee shall check the student for active head lice. If it is determined that the student remains infected with head lice, the school nurse or designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian to discuss treatment. As needed, he/she may provide additional resources and/or referral to the local health department, health care providers, or other agencies.

If a student is found consistently infested with head lice, he/she may be referred to a multi-disciplinary team, which may consist of the school nurse, representatives from the local health department and social services, and other appropriate individuals, to determine the best approach for identifying and resolving problems contributing to the student's head lice infestations.

When it is determined that one or more students in a class or school are infested with head lice, the principal or designee may, at his/her discretion, notify parents/guardians of students in that class or school and provide them with information about the detection and treatment of head lice.

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48320-48325 School attendance review boards

49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

Guidelines on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities, rev. March 2012

A Parent's Guide to Head Lice, 2008

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

Pediculosis Management, Position Statement, rev. 2011

WEB SITES

American Academy of Pediatrics: <http://www.aap.org>

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

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

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

Policy Reviewed:

1 st Reading:	January 20, 2011
2 nd Reading & Adoption:	February 17, 2011
Revised, 1 st Reading & Adoption:	May 9, 2019