

# REGULATION

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

OPERATIONS

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### R 8454 – Head Lice

Management of cases of head lice depends, first, on good communication. Parents who suspect that their child has a case of head lice shall report this to the school nurse. The school nurse shall examine the student for signs of an infestation: live lice or viable nits.

If nits are found in the absence of crawling lice, the school nurse (or the substitute school nurse) shall inform the parent/guardian and the nurse shall re-inspect within 7-10 school days.

If live (crawling) lice are found, the nurse shall notify the parent via phone (preferred), email, and/or a note sent home with the student. In addition, the nurse shall provide the parent with the following:

1. Information regarding the biology of the head louse;
2. Methods to eliminate infestation (as recommended by district medical inspector);
3. Directions for examining household contacts for lice and nits.

The nurse may examine the heads of other students who may have had direct head to head contact with the affected student.

Parents/ guardians will be asked to verify treatment as soon as possible after notification. If the parent/guardian is not able to afford treatment, the student will be referred to their medical home or, in cases where the student has no medical home, to the local health department.

Educational information will be provided to all parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year. In addition, educational materials will be available on the district website in the following locations: District nursing department (“Nurse’s Office”) and on each individual school nurse’s webpage.

The privacy of students and their families will be maintained at all times.

#### References:

National Association of School Nurses Position Statement: “Pediculosis Management in the School Setting”

American Academy of Pediatrics: Frankowski, B.L. & Bocchini, J.A. (2010) Clinical Report-Head Lice. *Pediatrics*. 126(2) 392-403

Sciscione, Patricia & Krause-Parello, C (2007) No-Nit Policies in Schools: Time for a Change *Journal of School Nursing* 23 (1) 13-20

Pontius, D, (2011) Hats Off to Success: Changing Head Lice Policy, *NASN School Nurse*, 357-263.

Oakland Unified School District Administrative Regulation 5141.33

New York City Department of Education “Head Lice Policy”

Retrieved from <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/Pediculosis/default.html>

Adopted: April 8, 2013