

# POLICY

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## 8454. Head Lice

The Board of Education and the Superintendent are committed to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff members in order to maximize academic achievement. Furthermore, the District values effective collaboration, critical thinking, thoughtful reflection, ethical responses to all challenges and fluent and precise communication between learners, educators, and the wider community.

It is recognized by the Board of Education and the Superintendent that head lice do not cause disease, but their presence is the cause of much emotion and unnecessary absences from school. The District recognizes that head lice infestations are not a sign of uncleanliness, they are not the source of disease, and they pose no hazards to health.

Head lice do not signify an infection, but rather an infestation and while infestations may not be a health threat, they often become a social issue. Misinformation about head lice is often the source of anxiety and sometimes anger in school and parent communities. In addition, outdated “no nit” policies are the cause for unnecessary absences from school which may negatively affect academic performance.

The goal of the District in managing cases of head lice is to provide a safe and healthy environment for learning, one in which adults collaborate to:

1. Establish evidence-based management protocols for students with head lice;
2. Educate students, staff, and parents in the management of head lice in accordance with up-to-date scientific research.

Through this approach, thoughtful, confidential, and evidence-based care will be delivered by school personnel. Moreover, academic performance will be maximized and unnecessary absences due to the exclusion of students with head lice will be minimized.

### References:

Board of Education Policies: No. 5200 Attendance and No. 8452 Control of Communicable Disease

NJAC 6A:16 Programs to Support Student Development

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

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Pontius, D, (2011) Hats Off to Success: Changing Head Lice Policy, *NASN School Nurse*, 357-263.  
Oakland Unified School District Administrative Regulation 5141.33

Adopted: April 8, 2013