

## **Grandview Heights City School District Administrative Guidelines**

### **PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)**

Whenever a student is found to be infested with head lice, his/her parent/guardian will be notified of the infestation. Additionally, the student will be told of the infestation and reassured that it is a very treatable condition and nothing of which to be ashamed. The student will also be educated in the transmission of head lice and told not to share combs, hats, etc. with others.

When the parent picks up his/her child, the parent will be informed that the student needs to be treated before she/he returns. **The student will be permitted to return to school after it is confirmed that the child is free of any live lice and progress toward nit (lice eggs) removal has been made.**

The parent will be given information that provides guidance and educational material concerning the epidemiology, treatment and follow-up procedures for the infestation. The parent will be informed that other family members might be infested and need treatment. If the parent is unable to identify nits or lice, the parent will be advised where this service is provided (local health department, clinic, physician's office).

The other students in the infested student's classroom and the student's sibling(s) should be examined for evidence of either the lice or lice eggs (nits). The examination should be done by the school nurse or designee.

The proper way to confirm the presence of head lice is to find actual lice in the child's hair. Transmission of lice most often occurs by direct contact with the head of an infested child as lice do not jump or fly. Indirect contact can occur when personal belongings of an infested child (combs, brushes, hats, pillows, bedding) are shared with another child.

Only children and family members who have head lice should be treated with a lice-removal product.

Procedure for treatment and follow-up:

- A. If head lice are confirmed at school, the actions described above will be taken.
- B. Parents need to notify the school health staff if they discover lice at home. They should also notify the parents of their child's close friends.
- C. The school health staff will be available to discuss treatment and follow-up of head lice.
- D. A class letter will be sent home for confirmed cases of head lice.
- E. Parents are to treat the child with a lice-removal product at home following exact directions. They are to treat the home environment by vacuuming, washing bed linens, clothing, brushes, etc.
- F. The student may return to school after treatment and if no live lice are found in the hair and progress toward nit removal has been made. When the student returns, she/he is checked by the health services staff.
- G. Parents need to continue to check for nits (eggs) and lice by examining and combing the hair daily. If eggs and live lice are still present after a week, a second lice removal treatment should be done. Parents should check for nits and comb their child's hair until no lice are found for two weeks.
- H. Parents should continuously observe their child for signs of head lice – scratching, redness at the nape of the neck, and nits attached to the hair shaft.
- I. If unsure, parents are encouraged to check with their pediatrician for any additional recommended treatment. The health services staff will check any student for lice by parent request.
- J. If more information is needed, please refer to the Centers of Disease Control website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).