

Head Lice

The Board recognizes its responsibility to all students enrolled in the Pine Creek School to provide a safe and healthy environment in which they may attend school. One inhibitor to a healthy environment is the head louse (*Pediculus capitis*). Head lice infestations must be addressed in public schools if a healthy environment is to be maintained. Every attempt will be made to educate students and parents on the prevention and eradication of head lice before and after infestation is detected.

The innocent desire of children to be social and the communicable nature of lice requires preventive measures by the school district and the public health agency to contain infestations. The Pine Creek School will work cooperatively with the public health agency to insure that infestations of head lice are contained and eradicated in the school.

In the interest of health and welfare of students enrolled in Pine Creek School, no student will be permitted to attend classes with the general population if they are infested with head lice.

To avoid embarrassment and to contain the infestation, whole classrooms will be checked for head lice upon the report of possible infestation by a classroom teacher. The principal or Board designee or school nurse will examine the child in question and their classmates. Siblings of students found with lice and their classmates will also be checked if there is suspicion that infestation may exist.

The student found with head lice is to be kept out of school until he/she is treated and hair is free of lice and eggs. Although eggs (nits) cannot spread to other children, they may hatch in 2-3 days and would immediately become communicable. A child may return to school after being successfully treated so that no live lice are present.

Parents or guardians will be informed of lice infestation by a letter that explains the problem, lists the procedures for treatment and requirements for reentering school. Every attempt will be made to contact parents or guardians immediately upon discovery of head lice. Parents will be asked to come to school to pick up the student and begin treatment immediately.

Policy History:

Adopted on: April 12, 2016