



## **FLATONIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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P.O. Box 189 • Flatonia, Texas 78941 • (361) 865-2941 • Fax (361) 865-2940

### **Flatonia ISD Lice Procedures**

“The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), the Texas Department of State Health (TDSH) and the National Association of Pediatrics recommend that students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Flatonia ISD Lice Screening Procedures are based on this recommendation.

#### **Screening Guidelines:**

Children should be assessed for lice only when demonstrating symptoms of head lice. School nurses will screen for lice on an individual student basis. Privacy shall be observed to avoid embarrassment and maintain confidentiality guidelines. In addition, educating and supporting the child and parents with factual information is an essential part of the head lice management process.

Entire classroom screenings, campus-wide assessments and “routine” lice screenings are generally not productive and result in a potential loss of privacy and decreased instructional time. Therefore a mass screening process will not be routinely used. A group screening may be performed on occasion at the request of the campus administrator when there is concern of an infestation in either a classroom or a specific grade. Parent permission is not needed to examine a student for possible head lice. Head lice are a common nuisance and effort should be made to avoid the spread of the condition.

#### **Notification:**

A parent /guardian of a student with lice shall be notified by phone, in person, or by written message and the parent/guardian is instructed that the student should be treated with an appropriate lice elimination shampoo before returning to school. Information about lice detection and elimination is sent home with the student/parent. Notices will be sent home to classroom students at the elementary level. It may be appropriate to have the student's head checked upon return to school. Follow-up head checks may be done



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to confirm lice management efforts. If future checks reveal an increased number of nits present or it is obvious to the screener that the student's hair has not been treated, the parent/guardian will be contacted for follow-up support.

Active head lice are indicated by the presence of live lice anywhere on the head and/or yellowish nits near the scalp. Students with clear nits (egg sacks) down the hair shaft, as determined by the campus nurse/screener, will not be excluded from school. These egg sacks are empty and are of no risk to the student or others.

### Exclusion Protocol

Note: the presence of severe infestations of untreated head lice can be disruptive to the educational setting.

In the rare occasion that a student has either: 1) Chronic head lice infestation 2) Severe head lice infestation; and it is determined that Exclusion needs to be considered, the school administrator and school nurse will consult regarding implementing Exclusion. This measure will only be taken with careful consideration. A written notification will be provided to the parent and phone contact will be attempted and documented. The district's exclusion protocol is designed to protect the integrity of the school day, and to minimize embarrassment and unnecessary isolation of students with head lice. Students who have evidence of chronic/severe lice may be sent home from school at the discretion of the campus administrator and/or campus nurse so that treatment may begin as quickly as possible. The nurse shall provide the student's parent/guardian information regarding appropriate treatment and prevention of head lice transmission.

Readmission Criteria: Students who have been excluded from school for lice shall be readmitted to school upon:

- Examination by the campus nurse prior to readmission to the classroom. The nurse will assess for effectiveness of treatment and will readmit the student to the classroom. Signs of improvement may include absence of live lice and a reduction in the amount of nits present. It may be appropriate to monitor progress of lice management over a period of time; the goal is to support the family in eradication of the lice infestation.



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- Receipt of a statement signed by parent or guardian indicating that the student has been treated for head lice. The document should include the date of treatment, and name of treatment applied.