

Policy Number: 453.7
Title: HEAD LICE
Adopted: November 15, 2010

Current evidence and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not support the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of classroom or school-wide screening for decreasing the incidence of head lice among school children. School administrators are encouraged to help educate parents and staff about the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice. This policy reflects current “best practice.”

“No-nits” policies that require a child to be free of nits before they can return to school are also not recommended. Students diagnosed with live head lice should not be sent home early from school. Such students may go home at the end of the school day in the manner they are accustomed to and should be permitted to return to school after appropriate treatment is started. Head lice can be a nuisance but they have not been shown to spread disease. Exclusion from class or school shall not occur.

In light of federal guidance and recommendations of the Wisconsin School Nurse Association, Barron Area School District shall respond to the presence of head lice in the following manner:

1. Head lice shall be treated as a medical issue deserving the same level of confidentiality as any other medical concern.
2. The district shall take measures to avoid isolating or stigmatizing students with suspected or known/confirmed head lice.
3. The school nurse shall determine the appropriate course of action for each presentation of head lice on a case-by-case basis. This includes, but is not limited to, communication to parents and classroom or grade level head lice checks if warranted.
4. All adult assistance with any classroom or grade level head lice checks shall be conducted under the guidance and direction of the school nurse.
5. In cooperation with the school nurse, the school administration shall assist in the proper education of parents and staff members about the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of head lice.

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference: 453.6 Rule - Guidelines for the Control and Treatment of Head Lice/Nits in School
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.cdc.gov
Wisconsin School Nurse Association