

Green Township Board of Education

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District Policy

8454- MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS

Section: Operations

Date Created: September, 2016

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The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain a healthy learning environment for all children in the school district. One way to maintain this healthy learning environment is to manage pediculosis, a condition of a person having head **lice**. Head **lice** are very small insects that have claws that cling to hair and spend their entire life cycle on the heads of people. Head **lice** do not spread any diseases and having head **lice** is not prevented by personal or household cleanliness, use of shampoos, or length of hair. All social and economic groups can be affected by head **lice**. Because it is very difficult to totally prevent head **lice** infestations in schools where children come into close head-to-head contact with each other frequently, the Board of Education authorizes appropriate steps to manage pediculosis.

A student who is found to have active head **lice** will not be permitted to attend school until there are no active **lice** in the student's hair, proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse, and until all live and/or dead head **lice** are removed from the student's hair as confirmed by an examination by the school nurse

The presence of nits (the eggs of **lice**) without active head **lice** will not prohibit a child from attending school provided proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse and there is no evidence of active head **lice** in the student's hair.

The Board recognizes parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head **lice** and school staff members will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families in managing pediculosis. The school nurse will compile a Management of Pediculosis Information Packet. The Board of Education's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet and this Policy will be provided to parents of children identified with active head **lice** or nits and be made available to all parents upon request. The Information Packet will include information about identifying, treating, and managing pediculosis.

If the school nurse determines a student has active head **lice** or nits, bed bugs, or other like bugs, or parasitic insects, the parent shall be notified by the school nurse as soon as reasonably possible. If the school nurse determines a student has active head **lice** or nits, the parent will be provided a copy of the district's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet and this Policy. The school nurse will advise the parent that prompt treatment of active head **lice** and/or nits is in the best interest of their child and treatment shall be required before the student can return to school. The school nurse will determine to send the child home or have the child remain at school for the remainder of the school

day based on the comfort of the child, the degree of the infestation, and the likelihood of the spread of head **lice** to other students. If the school nurse cannot contact the parent a letter from the school nurse informing the parent of the presence of active head **lice** or nits will be sent home with the student. In the event the parent cannot be reached on the day it is determined their child has active head **lice** or nits, the parent will be required to contact the school nurse the next school day to review the Board Policy, the Management of Pediculosis Information Packet, and treatment options.

The following action will be taken to prevent the spread of head **lice** in district schools:

1. Grades Kindergarten through Five – When a single case of active head **lice** has been identified by the school nurse, parents of all children in a class will be notified by the school nurse. The Principal or school nurse will send home a copy of a Head **Lice** Alert Notice, the school district’s Management of Pediculosis Information Packet and this Policy to all parents of children in the class.
 - a. The information provided to parents will clearly notify parents that treatment should only be performed on their child if active head **lice** or nits are found in their child’s scalp and treatment should not be applied as a preventative measure. This notification will inform parents they are expected to notify the school nurse if they find active head **lice** or nits in their child’s scalp. The school nurse will perform a head check of any student if requested by the parent.
 - b. The school nurse will perform head checks of all students in a classroom where there are two or more active head **lice** cases or nits in the same classroom within a one week period.
 - c. In the case of several infestations in one classroom, the school nurse will develop a plan with the teacher to address this situation. (Make sure certain coats and backpacks hung up in the classroom are not in contact with other coats and backpacks).
 - d. Efforts will be made to minimize cross contamination or re-contamination. Students will be encouraged to maintain appropriate head space as well as body space so that hair does not touch. Headphones are not to be shared.

Each school in the district will make available to parents the district’s Management of Pediculosis Policy.

All school staff members will maintain a sympathetic attitude and will not stigmatize and/or blame families who experience difficulty with control measures. All school staff members will act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community regarding issues of head **lice**. Each school in the district will educate and encourage children

and parents to learn about head **lice** in an attempt to remove any stigma or to prevent any harassment, intimidation, and bullying associated with this issue. Any instances of harassment, intimidation, and bullying shall be reported and investigated in accordance with the provisions of the district's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy.

A student excluded from school for reasons outlined in this Policy shall be readmitted only upon the examination and approval of the Principal or designee and the school nurse. The examination for re-admittance to school by the school nurse may be, but is not required to be, in the presence of the student's parent.

Cases of active head **lice** will be recorded by the school nurse in each school for the purpose of tracking incident rates and mandatory reporting of outbreaks will be done according to the New Jersey Department of Health criteria for reporting outbreak.

Adopted: 24 August 2016

Revised: November 15, 2017

