



July 29, 2014

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of Revision to Head Lice Policy

**Recommendation:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Head Lice Policy as detailed in the attached document.

This is a second reading of this revision.

**Description:** The attached document seeks to revise the language in the school district's Head Lice Policy to bring it into conformance with current recommended medical standards and practices. This proposed revised policy also has been reviewed by the Cambridge Health Alliance's School and Public Health Medical Director and the Clinical Manager of the School Health Program.

**Supporting Data:** Attached revisions to policy

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Young".

Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

### HEAD LICE POLICY

Head lice continues to be a common community issue especially for children age 3-11. Children can get head lice anytime they are in close contact with others, for example, in schools, at sporting activities, slumber parties and/or camps. ~~the most prevalent communicable disease among American children, next to the common cold.~~ Because lice are easily spread among school children, it is the policy of the Cambridge Public Schools (as per order of the School Committee #C83-1154) not to allow children to return to school until children are treated. ~~remain in school after a parent/guardian has been notified and children are not treated.~~

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Additionally, it is the policy of the Cambridge Public Schools that if it is suspected that a student has head lice, the student will be referred to the school nurse.

The responsibilities of the school nurse include:

1. Identifying and confirming whether a children with has active suspected head lice.
2. Contacting parent/guardian and advising them of the
  - a. ~~guidelines for care proper procedures for treatment of active head lice.~~ (Information handout)
  - b. ~~"No Nit" policy and criteria~~
3. ~~Screening of an entire classroom is not indicated, classroom of affected students and of students' sibling(s), if any. Notify parent/guardian, by letter, of screening (Child screened letter and information handout).~~
4. Educating/reviewing with classroom teacher environmental strategies for control of transmission in the classroom.
5. Rescreening all students with positive findings, after treatment, on returning to school.
6. ~~Notifying The school nurse will discuss with the principal/head of upper school the need for notification of the entire classroom.~~

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~~In the event that the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, and the child cannot wait in the nurse's office, the child will remain in a location outside the classroom at the discretion of the principal and the nurse.~~

~~A student found to have active head lice infestation is to refrain from attending school until proper treatment to remove all active lice has been completed. A student with nits (egg cases which attach to a strand of hair) is permitted to attend school while treatment is occurring.~~

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NO - NIT Criteria

1. ~~The removal of all lice, eggs (nits), and egg cases following the application of a lice-killing product.~~
2. ~~The exclusion of a child from school setting until such measures have been accomplished.~~
3. ~~Education to ensure that parents understand their responsibility under the NO-NIT policy.~~

*Adopted: June 5, 2001*