

# Walden Academy Policy and Procedure Manual

Chapter 5000 Students

Section 141, Head Lice

Date: November 3, 2018

Responsible Department: School Superintendent/Director

Source: California School Nurses Association/National School Nurses Association

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Walden Academy Board of Directors recognizes that head lice infestations among students require treatment but do not pose a risk of transmitting disease. The Superintendent or designee encourages early detection and treatment in a manner that shall minimize disruption to the educational program and reduce student absences.

All school employees shall report any suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as suspected, detected or confirmed.

It is necessary that efforts be made to effectively control head lice as soon as it becomes evident that a student may be infested. School personnel must work cooperatively with students and parents to initiate the steps necessary to treat and eliminate head lice. Control depends on prompt detection, proper administration, effective treatment and spread prevention.

The following procedures are to be followed when a student has been found to have head lice:

1. Parents are to be immediately contacted and the student sent home in order to receive proper treatment. Information shall be made available to the parents, including options for treatment with methods such as an anti-lice shampoo and other options for the student infested and the procedures to be followed to eliminate head lice in the home. If the child is unable to go home, the school will make reasonable efforts to minimize contact with other students for the remainder of the school day.
2. School age siblings of the student attending Walden Academy will be checked for head lice by school staff as soon as possible.
3. Students will be readmitted to school ONLY after they have been checked by appropriate school staff and are found to be free of head lice/nits under  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from scalp. Students will NOT be readmitted if head lice are present/nits under  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from scalp. The parent will contact the school to schedule an appointment for a readmit check. Parents should accompany their child to school for the readmit check.
4. A student will be allowed up to two excused absences for head lice treatment. Any additional absences will be counted as unexcused and school personnel will contact the family for immediate follow up.
5. Approximately one week after being readmitted for having had head lice, the student will be rechecked for head lice by school staff. If head lice are found, the process of exclusion will be initiated again.
6. In situations where the student has repeated cases of head lice, school personnel will contact the family to assist them in identifying means of effectively dealing with the issue and, where appropriate, make referrals to appropriate agencies.
7. If a student is found consistently infested with head lice, he/she may be referred to a multidisciplinary team, which may consist of the school nurse, representatives from the local health department and social services, and other appropriate individuals, to

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determine the best approach for identifying and resolving problems contributing to the student's head lice infestations.

8. Prevention and awareness information will be provided to all families in a classroom if 2 or more students have been found to have active head lice. This awareness letter will inform parents that a case of head lice was detected in their child's class and will provide general information about head lice. Such a letter will NOT provide the identity of the students found to have head lice. The letter will not be send again if it had been sent within the previous 10 days.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48320-48325 School attendance review boards

49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

Management Resources:

CENTERS for DISEASE CONTROL and PREVENTION

Head Lice Information of Schools, rev. September 2, 2015

A Parent's Guide to Head Lice, 2008

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

Pediculosis Management, Position Statement, rev. 2011

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

Head Lice Management in the School Setting, Position Statement, rev. 2016

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### WEB SITES

American Academy of Pediatrics: <http://www.aap.org>

California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>

California School Nurses Organization: <http://www.csno.org>

Policy WALDEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

adopted: November 26, 2018 Willows, California