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| Book         | Policy Manual           |
| Section      | 8000 Operations         |
| Title        | HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS) |
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#### 8451 - HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS)

The School Board recognizes that effective management of pediculosis (infestation of head lice, *pediculus humanus capitis*) on students in Hernando Schools may depend on prompt case identification, effective treatment, and education regarding prevention of the spread of these ectoparasites.

Students who display signs of head lice infestation at school, such as excessive scratching of the head, may be sent to the clinic to be checked, as needed. A thorough examination of the hair and scalp will be done to determine the presence of nits or live lice. If nits or lice are found, siblings at a Hernando County school will be checked for lice infestation as well.

#### Definitions

**Pediculosis**-an infestation of lice.

**Infestation**- the presence of live lice, typically on the head.

**Lice**-the plural form of louse.

**Nit**- the egg of a louse.

**If nits or live lice are present**, the School Principal or designee will contact the parent/guardian to have the student treated and pick up the student from school immediately. If a student with nits or live lice is not able to be picked up immediately, they will remain in the clinic area until they can be picked up. Under no circumstances shall they be allowed to ride the bus.

Parent/Guardian will receive a Head Lice Notification and Treatment Letter. A classroom parent notification will be provided to the parents of the classroom. After nits and/or live lice treatment, the student must report to the clinic with a parent/guardian to be examined for lice/nits before they may return to class.

**If no live lice or nits are present**, the student may return to class with a pass from the clinic. If nits or live lice are present, the student will be sent home with a parent/guardian.

After treatment and upon returning to school, the child will be examined by the school health staff or principal. The District practices a policy of "no live lice" and no nits as a criterion for return to school.

Presence of lice twenty-four (24) hours after treatment suggests a very heavy infestation, re-infestation, resistance to therapy, or incorrect use of treatment product. Information will be provided to the parent/guardian regarding the treatment used. The parent/guardian is encouraged to contact the student's licensed healthcare provider regarding re-treatment with a pediculicide.