



## HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### **8454 MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS**

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. Misinformation about head lice is often a source of anxiety in school communities. 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.

The Board recognizes that 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 certified school nurse/substitute school nurse will screen students that have been referred for signs and symptoms of head lice. When an active case of head lice or nits has been identified, the school nurse will confidentially notify the building administrator and the parent. The student will not be sent home until the end of the day unless the parent or certified school nurse/substitute school nurse feels it is in the best interest of the student to be dismissed early based on the student's symptoms. The student will be instructed to avoid head to head contact. The parent will be advised that prompt treatment is best for their child and it is required before the student can return to school.

The certified school nurse/substitute school nurse will perform a head check on any of the affected students' siblings in the school at the request of the parent. If a sibling attends another school in the district, the certified school nurse/substitute school nurse in the sibling's school will be notified and that nurse will conduct a head check on the sibling if the parent requests.

When an active case of head lice has been identified, only the family of the affected student will be notified. The building principal, in consultation with the certified school nurse/substitute school nurse, will determine when or if additional notifications are necessary.

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.

Adopted: December 19, 2019