



San Diego ISD Student Action Plan for Lice and/or Nits

Purpose:

The purpose of this Student Action Plan is to outline a clear and effective process for managing and supporting students diagnosed with head lice and/or nits (lice eggs), ensuring proper treatment, preventing further spread, and maintaining the health and safety of the school community.

1. Initial Identification

Step 1: Student Identification of Suspected Lice or Nits

- **Referral for Assessment:**
If a teacher, staff member, or student exhibits signs of head lice (itching, scratching) or if a report is made by another student or parent, the student will be referred to the school nurse or designated school staff for evaluation.
- **Examination:**
The school nurse or designated school staff, will conduct a thorough examination of the student's scalp and hair, particularly looking behind the ears, at the nape of the neck, and parting the hair to check for the presence of live lice or nits.
- **Assessment Results:**
 - **Live Lice Present:** If live lice are found, the student may be sent home for treatment at the end of the school day.
 - **Nits Only (no live lice):** The student will not be excluded but will be monitored for any further signs of lice or nits.

Step 2: Parent/Guardian Notification

- If lice or nits are found, the student's parent or guardian will be contacted immediately, and instructions for treatment and removal will be provided.
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2. Treatment Plan

Step 3: Immediate Action for Treatment

- **Treatment Options:**

The parent/guardian will be advised to treat the child with over-the-counter or prescription lice treatment products, following the instructions on the packaging or as directed by a healthcare provider.

- *Note:* Lice shampoos, creams, or lotions should be used according to the manufacturer's guidelines, and parents should avoid using products that are not specifically designed for lice treatment.

- **Manual Nit Removal:**

In addition to using lice treatment, parents should comb through the child's hair with a fine-toothed comb (often provided in lice treatment kits) to remove any remaining nits. Manual removal of nits is essential to prevent re-infestation.

- **Parent Responsibilities:**

Parents are responsible for ensuring the treatment is completed and verifying that no live lice are present before the child returns to school.

3. Return to School

Step 4: School Nurse Review

- Once the student has received proper treatment, the student must be re-checked by the school nurse or designated school staff to ensure no live lice are present before being allowed to return to class.
 - **Re-entry Criteria:**
 - The student may return to school once the live lice have been treated and eliminated, regardless of the presence of nits.
 - The school nurse will check the student's scalp for live lice during re-entry. If live lice are still present, the student may be sent home for further treatment.
 - **Follow-up Evaluation:**

After the student has returned to school, the school nurse may continue to monitor the student for any recurrence of lice or nits for up to two weeks after re-entry.
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4. Monitoring and Follow-Up

Step 5: Continued Monitoring

- **Self-Monitoring and Parental Role:**

Parents are encouraged to continue monitoring their child's hair for the next few weeks to ensure the lice infestation has been fully eradicated.
- **Ongoing School Monitoring:**

The school nurse may observe the student's scalp during regular check-ins for possible

recurrence. Teachers and staff may also be informed to be on the lookout for signs of re-infestation.

- **Re-treatment:**

If lice are found after the initial treatment, the student will need to be treated again. The parent should seek guidance from the school nurse or their healthcare provider for additional treatment options.

Step 6: Classroom or School-wide Notification

- If an outbreak is confirmed in a classroom or grade level (more than one student with lice), the school will notify parents of students in the affected area. This notification will include:
 - Information about lice prevention, signs and symptoms, and how to treat lice.
 - Recommendations to check children for lice and nits.
 - The importance of seeking treatment and eliminating lice before returning to school.

Step 7: Addressing Repeated Cases

- If a student continues to have recurrent lice infestations, the school nurse will work with the parent or guardian to ensure that treatment protocols are being followed correctly.
 - The school may also request a healthcare provider's assessment to ensure that the treatment is effective or if a different course of action is needed.
 - In some cases, if treatment resistance is suspected, the parent may be referred to a specialist or a healthcare provider for additional support.

5. Preventing the Spread

Step 8: Educating Students and Staff

- **Prevention Education:**
 - Students and staff will be educated on proper prevention strategies to reduce the spread of lice. This includes avoiding head-to-head contact and not sharing personal items such as hats, combs, or hair accessories.
 - Parents will be provided with information on how to prevent lice, including tips on regularly checking for lice and how to handle infestations promptly.
- **Classroom and Environment Cleanliness:**
 - Lice do not survive long without a host, and routine cleaning of classroom materials, lockers, and personal items is not necessary. However, common items that may have been in close contact with the student, such as hats, brushes, or scarves, will be cleaned and disinfected.

- Personal items should not be shared, and students should be reminded to store their personal belongings separately.
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6. Confidentiality

Step 9: Ensuring Confidentiality

- All cases of lice and nits will be handled confidentially to protect the privacy of the student and their family.
 - The school will not disclose the identity of students with lice to other families or classmates. Notifications to parents regarding lice outbreaks will be done in a manner that protects student confidentiality.
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7. Special Considerations

Step 10: For Students with Special Needs

- Special accommodations will be considered for students with disabilities or special healthcare needs. The school nurse, in collaboration with the special education team and the student's healthcare provider, will create an individualized action plan as needed.
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Conclusion:

This Student Action Plan ensures that all students with lice or nits are identified, treated, and supported according to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and CDC guidelines. By following this plan, we aim to prevent the spread of lice while minimizing disruption to the student's learning experience. Cooperation between families, school staff, and healthcare providers is essential to maintaining a healthy and safe school environment.

For more information or questions regarding this policy, please contact [School Nurse Name] at [School Contact Information].

This plan provides a clear, step-by-step process for managing students with lice and nits, with an emphasis on prevention, treatment, monitoring, and communication.

References:

Texas Education Agency (n.d.). *What you need to know about head lice in school*. Texas Education

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Texas Health and Human Services (n.d.). *Managing head lice in school settings and at home*. Texas

Department of State Health Services. Retrieved March 3, 2025, from <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/skilled-procedures-texas-school-health/managing-head-lice-school>