



Forest Ranch Charter School

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Board Policy – Head Lice

1. Purpose

- a. The Board recognizes that head lice (pediculosis) are a harmless infestation that can infect children and adults of all socio-economic backgrounds. Head lice can be difficult to treat and are usually passed through head-to-head contact and/or use of contaminated brushes or combs. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that school personnel, medical personnel, parents and students work cooperatively together to initiate the steps necessary to treat and eliminate head lice.

2. Responsibilities

- a. The Executive Director or designee shall be responsible for:
 - i. determining the level of infestation of head lice on a student and the ability of that student to attend classes.
 - ii. determining when and if absences due to head lice become excessive.
- b. The School Nurse or designee shall be responsible for working with school personnel and families to provide assistance and education on dealing with head lice and head lice infestation.
- c. Parents/guardians shall be responsible for:
 - i. providing effective treatment at home for head lice and head lice infestation.
 - ii. scheduling and accompanying their student to a readmit check appointment prior to their student returning to school.
- d. Students shall be responsible for participating in effective treatment at home.

3. Procedures - The following procedures apply when a student is found to have head lice:

- a. Parents will be immediately contacted, and the student excluded from school to receive proper treatment. Information will be made available to parents, including options for treatment and procedures for elimination of lice infestation. If the child is unable to go home immediately, the school will make reasonable efforts to minimize contact with other students for the remainder of the day.
- b. School-age siblings of the student will be checked for head lice by the Executive Director or designee as soon as possible.
- c. An “awareness” letter will be sent home to all FRCS families. This letter will inform parents that a case of head lice was detected in the school and will provide

general information about head lice and suggestions as to what parents can do to screen their own children for head lice. Such a letter will NOT provide the identity of the student found to have head lice. Such a letter will not be sent again if it had been sent within the previous 10 days.

- d. A student will be readmitted to school ONLY after they are checked by the Executive Director or designee and found to be free of head lice. Students will NOT be readmitted if head lice are present. A student may be readmitted to school with some treated nits (eggs) present if the parent/guardian provides proof of treatment, such as an anti-lice shampoo bottle. It is the parents' responsibility to contact the school to schedule an appointment for a readmit check. Students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian for a readmit check.
- e. Students will NOT be allowed to ride the school bus until they have been checked and readmitted to school by the Executive Director or designee.
- f. Approximately one week (the hatching cycle period) after being readmitted for having had head lice, the student will be rechecked for head lice by the Executive Director or designee. If head lice are found, the process of exclusion will be initiated again.
- g. In situations where the student has repeated cases of head lice, the Executive Director or designee will contact the family to assist them in identifying means of effectively dealing with the situation.
- h. Student attendance will be reviewed by the Executive Director to determine if/when absences become excessive due to head lice. Excessive absences may be considered "unexcused" at the discretion of the Executive Director. Referrals may then be made to appropriate agencies regarding student attendance.

4. Adoption

- a. This board policy was reviewed and adopted by the Forest Ranch Charter School governing board on October 13, 2011.
- b. This board policy was recently reviewed on March 21, 2023.
- c. The next annual review will occur on or before March 21, 2024.