

## Northwest Community Schools Head Lice Prevention and Control Policy

Pediculosis is an infestation of head lice, not an infection. This small insect is transmitted from one person to another by direct or indirect contact with the lice. To prevent the transmission of head lice to other students the following policy is recommended. This policy is compiled by recommendations from the Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Department of Community Health, The Harvard School of Public Health, and the American Academy Of Pediatrics.

### **POLICY**

**Active Infestation** is defined as the presence of live lice and or nits found approximately within ¼” from the scalp, or when hair is pulled into a ponytail, nits will be found approximately 1-2” from the scalp in a circular pattern when the hair is let down.

- Students found with live lice or nits approximately within ¼” from the scalp will be determined with a viable head lice infestation. When the hair is in (or had been kept in) a ponytail, or similar style that gathers the hair together, live nits may be found 1-2” from the scalp, determining a viable head lice infestation. The parent will be notified to pick the student up from school, treat the hair, remove the nits and lice before the student returns to school. The parent will be required to bring the student back to school for a re-entry exam of the hair. This exam will be preformed by the school nurse or trained personnel.
- In head lice infestations, nits found approximately ½” or more from the scalp, shall be considered non-viable nits. Exception may be when the hair is kept in a ponytail or similar style. The student will be allowed to remain in school and ride the bus home. Parents will be notified to continue removal of the nits at home.
- Parents are responsible for treatment and the removal of nits and lice. Monitoring for re-occurring nits should continue for 3 weeks.