

825 - Handling Students with Lice Infestation Procedure

1. Purpose:

To establish policy and procedures in managing lice infestation at GWA.

2. Policy:

Students attending George Washington Academy, confirmed to be infested with head lice and/or nits located at the scalp or within 1/2 inch of the scalp, will be excluded from school until effective treatment to kill the live lice and complete removal of all nits to within 1/2 inch of the scalp has been accomplished. Further, all measures in the home necessary to eliminate lice and eggs in order to prevent further infestation have been completed.

3. Procedure:

3.1. A student identified with head lice and/or nits located at the scalp or within 1/2 inch of the scalp will be excluded from school.

3.1.1. Siblings of the student will also be examined for infestation and excluded according to the above criteria.

3.1.2. Every effort will be made to preserve the dignity of the student.

3.2. The infested student's parent will be notified as soon as possible and encouraged to contact their doctor, pharmacy, or the internet to assist them in the removal of the infestation from family members and their home environment.

3.2.1. The parent will be encouraged to return their child back to school on the following school day, as long as the head lice have been eradicated and all nits located at the scalp or within 1/2 inch of the scalp have been removed, and all procedures necessary to decontaminate the home have been completed.

3.3. Staff, students, and volunteers who may have been at-risk of lice infestation due to close contact with the infested student/students will be notified.

3.4. Basic educational materials to eradicate lice will be provided on the GWA website.

3.5. The custodian will be informed of the need to clean the floors, furniture, and carpeting within the classroom(s) attended by lice and/or nit infested students.

3.6. If the student does not return to school within a timely manner after exclusion, contact will be made by the School Office Staff to inquire about the reason for the absences and to offer support to the family.

3.6.1. If the student does not return to school after contact by school authorities, the Office Staff will contact the parents to determine if further support is needed.

3.6.2. If the lice infestation continues and/or the student is not returned to school after supportive efforts are provided, the Principal will determine the necessity to contact Child and Protective Service (DCFS), on the basis of educational neglect (needlessly keeping the student out of school). In many cases, DCFS may also provide additional support to the family to help remove the infestation and allow the student to transition back to school.

3.7. “Lice Check Teams” may be created within the school, if the Principal deems it necessary, and where the support is available through PTO members or other volunteers. Lice Check Teams may be established to do broad based screening when an infestation appears to involve multiple families.

3.7.1. GWA may schedule lice inspections as deemed necessary by the Principal and according to the available volunteers.