

RSU #16 (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)

Policy Code: EC

Adopted: September 2012

Revised:

Lice in School

RSU #16 follows the recommendations from the Maine Department of Education in dealing with students with lice. Excerpts below are directly from the Maine Department of Education School Health Manual.

National Recommendation for School Policy:

- **The American Academy of Pediatrics** recommends that no healthy child be excluded from or allowed to miss school because of head lice, and that ‘no nit’ policies for return to school are to be discouraged.
- **The National Association of School Nurses** states that nit-free policies disrupt the education process and should not be viewed as an essential strategy in the management of head lice.
- **Health and Health Care in Schools** – children with nits do not pose an immediate threat to the health of others, therefore, excluding these children from school and requiring them to be treated with a pesticidal product is probably excessive.

Recommendations for Schools:

- Routine head check of healthy students is not recommended.
- Check symptomatic students.
- When nits are 1/4 inch or closer to the scalp or live lice are discovered, do not exclude from school, but notify the parent that day and provide instructions on how to treat and eliminate.
- The school nurse may offer extra help to families with chronic infestations.

Please contact your school nurse with any questions or concerns.

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Jennifer Boenig

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