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Dear Principals, Assistant Principals, Office Managers, and Staff:

[Please convey the following information when addressing head lice at your school site:](#)

Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) recently revised its Board Policy regarding the presence and treatment of head lice. The revisions were approved by the Board during the 2017-18 school year after several years of research that focused on the potential health effects associated with head lice. These revisions align with the current research and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), National Association of School Nurses, and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as well as several other policy-making agencies and organizations, including California Department of Education (CDE).

The head lice policy revisions include the following recommendations and key points:

- Head lice do not carry or transmit disease and therefore are not hazardous to the health of students, families, or staff.
- Students are not excluded from attending class when nits (eggs) or live lice are present. When lice or nits are observed, the family or caregiver of the student is notified and instructions are provided for recommended treatment.
- Families and caregivers are encouraged to begin treatment of head lice the same day and to follow product recommendations for follow up treatment.

According to public health authorities including the Sacramento County Health and Human Services Department, head lice are a very common condition found among preschool and K-12 students yet, are not easily transmitted in the school setting. Most often, transmission takes place through head-to-head contact at sleepovers, sharing of headwear (hats, headbands, etc.), and bed linens.

SCUSD does not routinely notify the families of the presence of lice found among other students in the school or classroom. The incidental discovery of lice is handled discreetly so as to protect students and families from the ongoing stigma associated with head lice.

Please use the links provided below to learn more about head lice.

- **SCUSD Board Policy on Head Lice:** <https://www.scusd.edu/post/scusd-policy-head-lice>
- **CDPH Head Lice Brochures** (AVAILABLE IN 13 LANGUAGES): <https://www.scusd.edu/pod/free-parents-guide-head-lice-available-13-languages>
- **CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/index.html>
- **AAP:** <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/from-insects-animals/Pages/Signs-of-Lice.aspx>

The SCUSD Health Services team is available to answer your questions at: **916-643-9412**.

Sincerely,

Tami L. Cisneros, MS, RN, PHN
SCUSD Health Services Coordinator II