

GAINESVILLE ISD Health Services

Head lice Policy and Guidelines

Lice (All Grade Levels)

Head lice is very common among children. Although not an illness or a disease, it spreads easily through head-to-head contact during play, sports, nap time, and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones.

- If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent to discuss a treatment plan and determine if the child needs to be picked up; as deemed necessary by the school nurse. After the student undergoes one treatment, the parent should check in with the school nurse to ensure treatment has been effective.
- The district does not require or recommend that students be removed from school because of lice or nits; unless as deemed necessary by the school nurse.
- If a student is sent home, 1 full school day is excused per year. Any absences related to lice beyond the allowed days, will be unexcused.
- If a student has evidence of lice/nits, the student should be treated before returning to school
- Classroom screening is not required; only suspected student to be screened privately
- The district will provide notice to parents of elementary school students in an affected classroom without identifying the student with lice.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the Gainesville ISD Health service website, DSHS website Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home (<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm>).