

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

BP 5141.33

Students

Head Lice

The Board of the Oakland Unified School District (District) is committed to maximizing students' academic performance and physical wellbeing in a healthy and safe environment. The District recognizes that head lice infestations do not pose a health hazard, are not a sign of uncleanliness, and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. However, archaic policies cause many unnecessary absences from school with potential negative effects on academic performance. Misinformation about head lice causes anxiety for parents and school staff.

The District defines a healthy and safe environment as one in which adults work together to provide the following environmental factors established by current research as necessary for the health and wellbeing of students with head lice:

- Educating staff, students, and parents/guardians about head lice.
- Establishing evidence based management for students with head lice.

The goals of providing a healthy and safe environment for students with head lice are to:

- Maximize academic performance.
- Minimize absence due to unnecessary exclusion of students with head lice.

Legal Reference:

Education Codes:

33308.5 Program Guidelines

51890 Comprehensive Health Education Programs

51913 Plan for a Comprehensive Health Education Program

51920 Inservice Training

Business and Professions Codes:

2725-2542 Nursing

Other Reference:

American Academy of Pediatrics

Centers for Disease Control

National Association of School Nurses

Harvard School of Public Health Laboratory of Public Health Entomology

7/14/04; 3/22/06A

