

## **Barrow County School System Head Lice Procedures**

The Barrow County School System will take action to prevent the spread of head lice among students. Head lice are transmittable during the period in which the louse is live and viable and, in a school setting, is most frequently transmitted by head to head contact and sharing of combs, hats, or other clothing. Students in Barrow County Schools who have been identified as having live head lice will not be allowed to attend class. School officials will take the following steps to identify and respond to cases of head lice.

1. Within the first week of school each year or within one week of a transfer student enrolling in a Barrow County School, parents will be notified of this policy and their responsibility for preventing and treating cases of head lice.
2. School personnel may, at the principal's direction and discretion, conduct head checks at various times throughout the year.
3. Teachers or para-professionals will report any suspected cases of head lice to a school administrator or trained designee in a reasonable time frame from point of discovery. Suspected cases may be identified at anytime during the year. Upon receiving a report, the school administrator or designee will take steps to verify the suspected case.
4. Head checks, unless a part of a whole class screening, should be conducted discreetly, individually, and out of sight of other students.
5. If a case of live head lice is found parents or guardians will be called to transport the student home. A case of head lice may be defined as the direct observation of live lice. If transportation from the school is not feasible after contact with the parent or guardian is made, the principal will ensure the student is able complete work in an individual setting until they can be picked up.
6. School officials will give parents written procedures and resources on the treatment of head lice.
7. No student will be allowed to return to class until he/she is free of all live lice. The parent or guardian will have to be present in order for the student to re-enter school.
8. Prior to return to class the parent must provide proof of treatment to the school administrator or trained designee and a head check will be conducted to ensure no live lice are present before he/she is allowed back in class
9. Proof of treatment can include a written note from a physician or health agency, receipt for lice treatment supplies contemporaneous with the discovery of lice, empty bottle or box of lice treatment product, or other evidence at the principal's discretion.
10. Any absences in excess of two per incident will be classified as unexcused. An incident is defined as a complete cycle including detection, treatment and verification that the student is free of all live lice.