

**WINNER SCHOOL DISTRICT 59-2
OFFICIAL SCHOOL BOARD POLICY**



HEAD LICE POLICY

Based on the recommendations of the National Association of School Nurses, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center of Disease Control and the SD State Department of Health the following are guidelines for managing head lice in the Winner School District setting:

1. Winner Elementary School will conduct at least (4) head checks per year for all students (August after school starts, November after Thanksgiving, January after Christmas Vacation and March after spring break). Winner Middle School/High School will conduct head checks for all students only as needed.
2. Winner School District staff members may request that a student be checked for lice based on excessive head scratching, student report of a “crawling” feeling or observation of suspected lice and/or eggs.
3. The student will be screened by a certified nurse or a trained, designated school employee. All checks for head lice will be performed in a confidential and respectful manner.
4. Student with live lice may be allowed to remain in the classroom until the end of the day, but should be discouraged from close head to head contact with other students.
5. In isolated situations, the student may be sent home early. Sending a student home is determined on an individual basis and common sense should prevail (a student with lots of live lice vs a student with only a few live lice).
6. Parents/guardians will be informed of the findings. Information on head lice and treatment will be provided to the parent/guardian. It is expected that the parent/guardian will treat the child before sending them back to school.
7. The student may return to school the next day only if treatment was completed, a visual inspection is confirmed by a certified nurse or trained, designated staff member and the school administrator approves of the return.
8. “Nits” are eggs dead or alive of a louse. Both the American Association of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses advocate that a school district should not have a “no-nit” policy because many nits are more than ¼ inch from the scalp, usually not viable and very unlikely to hatch to become crawling lice or may in fact be empty shells. Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to others. With this in mind, sending a student home because of nits is determined on an individual basis and common sense should prevail (a students with lots of nits vs a student with only a few nits).
9. Parents/guardians will be informed by mail or School Reach anytime school administration feels there is an abnormal amount of infestations detected during head lice checks.