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## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64

### POLICY 3850 Pediculosis (Head Lice)

*"Inspire learners, Integrate sustainability,  
Involve community"*

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Section: Health and Safety

Dates of Revisions: April 10, 1991, February 11, 2004

Date of Adoption and

Resolution Number: June 13, 2018 -76/18

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### **Rationale:**

*"Head lice can affect anyone, and are most common in the 3-11 year old age group. Head lice are annoying and may cause itching, but they do not cause disease. Reactions to head lice can subject children to teasing, bullying and isolation. For these reasons, head lice infestations should be treated.*

*Current research shows that school exclusion, early dismissal and no-nit policies do not prevent or control head lice infestations. In fact, these practices further stigmatize children, erode their self-esteem and interfere with learning. No-nit policies in schools and daycares are discouraged by both the Canadian Pediatric Society and American Academy of Pediatrics."*

### **Policy:**

The School District No. 64 Board of Education will cooperate with appropriate agencies in the provision of information concerning control and treatment of pediculosis, to all members of the district's school communities by providing standardized, evidence based head lice information to staff, teachers, parents and students. The board directs school principals to

1. ensure that their schools' responses to head lice infestations follow guidelines established by the Vancouver Island Health Authority;
2. oversee and support this effort in each school community by acting as a resource for the management of head lice and speaking to parents and advisory committees as requested;
3. avoid school-wide screening efforts, unless necessary.

### **Reference:**

- [https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/HeadLice/Documents/Head\\_Lice\\_Management.pdf](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/HeadLice/Documents/Head_Lice_Management.pdf)
- Vancouver Island health Authority. Head lice: [http://www.viha.ca/health\\_info/lice.htm](http://www.viha.ca/health_info/lice.htm)
- HealthLinkBC. Head Lice: [http://www.viha.ca/health\\_info/lice.htm](http://www.viha.ca/health_info/lice.htm)