

Captain Isaac Paine School - Updated School Guidelines for Head Lice

Based on current research and recommendations from the RI Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and in accordance to the Foster School District's Head Lice Policy, Captain Isaac Paine School will be following the updated guidelines stated below:

- Students who appear to have symptoms may be sent to the school nurse by their teacher or parent for evaluation. If the nurse finds lice/nits, the student's parent will be notified and provided with information on how to check, treat, and prevent further spreading of lice. Parents will be instructed to contact their pediatrician or family physician to get proper diagnosis and treatment. Children should be continued to be checked at home while demonstrating symptoms of lice and after treatment has been done.
- Students will not routinely be sent home early if they are positive for lice. AAP continues to recommend that a healthy student should not be stopped from attending school because of head lice or nits.
- The child may be examined by the nurse the following school day to inquire if a treatment has been done. The nurse may also re-examine the student in 7-10 days to look for a reinfestation.
- The AAP and RI Department of Health discourage school-wide screenings; which have not been found to have a significant impact over time on the number of head lice occurrences in the school setting. The school nurse may examine an entire grade level if there are multiple cases of lice within the grade.
- School staff will receive yearly training specific to detecting and treating head lice, as well as how to decrease the occurrences of head lice at school.
- The school must follow student privacy regulations (FERPA). Based upon the RI Department of Health recommendations and FERPA, parent notification letters will not typically be sent home. The school may send home a letter at the end of the day to all students in a grade level if there are multiple cases of lice within a

grade. The purpose of the letter is to inform parents or guardians so they can check their own child and family and treat their child if needed.

References:

[AAP Recommendations](#)

[RI Department of Health Recommendations](#)