

# **SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

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*Section* Schools and Students

*Policy Name* Pediculosis Control (Head Lice) Management Guideline Applies 540

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## **RATIONALE**

The Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) states that children with head lice should be treated and can attend school or child care as usual. "No-nit" policies that keep children with head lice away from school are not necessary because:

- head lice are common among young children
- head lice don't spread disease
- cases of head lice are often misdiagnosed
- children can have head lice for several weeks with no symptoms

Head lice are tiny grey/brown insects that live only on the scalp of human beings. Head lice or pediculosis continues to be an annoying, year-round problem especially with school-aged children. Anyone can get head lice, which are spread mainly by head-to-head contact. Having head lice is not a commentary on an individual's cleanliness or the cleanliness in the home. While getting rid of head lice can cause frustration and upset for families, head lice are not considered to be a health hazard.

## **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Superior-Greenstone District School Board to provide current and accurate information to school staff, parents and the general public on how to recognize, treat and prevent head lice in a safe and effective way.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Coordinated efforts between parents/caregivers, students, school staff, health professionals and the community are necessary to help families eliminate head lice and bring their spread under control. The best plan of action needs to include early detection, prompt management, and effective education and prevention strategies.

Effective head lice control is based on a high standard of education, prevention and accountability for both parents and staff.