

## HEAD LICE PROTOCOL

Scott County Schools recognize the parent's role and responsibility in prevention, detection, and management of head lice. Routine screening of children's heads by their parents is strongly encouraged for early identification of head lice or other scalp/skin conditions. Information will be provided to all parents regarding prevention, treatment, and control of head lice at their request.

If a student is found to be infested with head lice (live lice), the parent/guardian will be asked to pick up the child at school and talk with the school nurse about treatment and policy. Students with nits only will not be excluded from school but rechecked in 7 and 14 days for the presence of live lice. Information will be provided to parents regarding lice treatment products, proper removal of nits, and house cleaning. The parent/guardian must follow directions on the product they choose and be very thorough in **the removal of all nits**. They will also be encouraged to consult with their physician, local health department, and/or school nurse for additional instructions and recommendations.

The parent/guardian will be instructed that the student will be excused the next school day only in order for proper treatment to be completed. Subsequent days missed will not be excused. **The parent/guardian must accompany the student to school and show proof of lice treatment used (receipt, empty box or container). The student will be rechecked before being admitted to the classroom. Students may be readmitted when no active infestation is present.**

Upon continued infestation or reinfestation, within one month of the first occurrence, procedures listed above will be repeated and the parent/guardian will be made aware of the consequences of chronic cases.

### Chronic Cases:

A chronic case is defined as a student infested with live lice for three consecutive weeks or three separate months during a school year. For these cases, school staff will continue to follow the stated intervention protocol. Additionally, staff may refer the family for assistance, resources and/or recommendations to appropriate county agencies such as Scott County Health Department, Scott County Department of Social Services and/or Department of Juvenile Justice. In chronic cases, absences and early dismissals for head lice will be considered unexcused and the attendance policy will be followed. However, when the parent/guardian provides written notice that the family is working with a social services agency to address the problem of lice infestation in the home environment, lice related absences will be excused.