

**Management of Head Lice and Nits**

**Policy No. 302.5**

The Board of Education, School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes), recognizes that head lice are common and may spread in any situation where individuals gather and are in close contact. This contact could happen either at school, on buses, during social activities outside of school such as visiting, sleepovers, sports, birthdays and family get-togethers. The Board recognizes that head lice are a nuisance but that they do not transmit disease. The presence of head lice in a school shall not be considered a health hazard.

The identification, management and treatment of head lice shall be a cooperative endeavor between the family and the school community, with primary responsibility resting with the parent. Public Health may be involved as a resource. It is important to note that the presence of head lice is not a reflection on the level of cleanliness or parenting skills of a home. The dignity of the student and family shall be respected in the implementation of this policy. Steps should be taken to protect the child's self-esteem and social status in the classroom.

Current research should be reviewed when determining identification and treatment options. Practices which disrupt the educational process are not supported by this policy.