Head Lice Guidelines For Schools
Claremont Unified School District

Head lice, while a significant social problem, do not transmit disease to humans. In the past, head lice policies in schools emphasized that a child infested with head lice could not return to school until no nits were found in their hair ("no nit" policy). In light of current research, the California Department of Health Services recommends a no live lice policy. In accordance with these recommendations, CUSD Board Policy number 5141.33(a) now states:

- "If a student is found with active, adult head lice, he/she shall be excluded from attendance. The parent/guardian of an excluded student shall receive information about recommended treatment procedures and sources of further information. The student shall be allowed to return to school the next day and shall be checked by the nurse or designee before returning to class. Once he/she is determined to be free of lice, the student shall be rechecked weekly for up to six weeks"

- "When two or more students in any class have been identified as having a head lice infestation, all students in the class shall be examined. In consultation with the school nurse, the principal may also send information about head lice home to all parents/guardians of the students in that class."

What this means for the school:
- Any student with live lice is to be picked up from school as soon as is reasonably possible for the parent. Immediate treatment at home is advised.
- Any student with nits and no live lice is allowed in school, although the parents should be notified and advised of treatment procedures for nit removal.
- Provide parents with educational material such as “A Parent’s Guide to Head Lice” brochure from the DHS.
  http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/headlice2008ENG.pdf
- The student will be readmitted to school after treatment and examination. If, upon examination, the school-designated personnel can find no live lice on the child, the child may re-enter the school.
- When 2 or more students in a class have lice, the whole class will be checked for lice and letters may be sent home with the students of that class.

Suggested classroom actions:
- Minimize head to head contact as much as possible in the classroom.
- If a child is found infested with head lice, the classroom may be vacuumed to decrease the remote possibility of transmission of head lice.
- Pillows and other classroom items may have nits or lice on them but are very unlikely sources of infestation. They may be put in a dryer and run on hot for 20 minutes, dry-cleaned, or placed in sealed plastic bags for two weeks to kill hatching lice.