

The International Community School has recently revised its nit and lice policy to ensure it aligns with research and evidence-based recommendations. Prior to creating this policy, the International Community School reviewed the lice and nit treatment procedures of surrounding schools, Dekalb County School District, and the Georgia Department of Health recommendations. This research led to the development of the below policy and procedures.

Our goal is to create an evidence-based policy that respects our students' privacy while also educating and promoting successful treatment of lice. We also hope to maximize our students' time in their classrooms.

**Process:**

1. An individual child's head will be checked if they complain of an itchy scalp or if an adult notices constant scratching.
2. If active head lice are found, sibling(s) will also be checked.
3. If active head lice or nits (eggs) are found on a student, their guardian will be confidentially notified.
  - a. In the event of active head lice, parents will be asked to pick up their child as soon as possible to begin treatment.
  - b. In the event of nits, students are able to stay throughout the school day. However, parents will have the option to pick up their child at their convenience to begin treatment.
4. If active head lice or nits (eggs) are found on a student, the student should receive treatment before returning to school.
5. Upon returning to school, the student will be checked again.

**Multiple Cases:**

1. If active lice are found on a child 2 or more times within 60 days, evidence of medical treatment must be submitted for the child to return to school.
2. The student will be checked again one week after treatment is complete.

**Notes:**

A brief, confidential note will be sent home to parents if nits or lice are detected on a classmate within their class.

We will no longer complete whole class checks, per guidance from the Georgia Department of Public Health Head Lice Manual (page 22).

**Additional Resources:**

Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>

Georgia Department of Public Health: <https://dph.georgia.gov/documents/head-lice>