

4.34 -- COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND PARASITE - School Board Policy

Students with communicable diseases or parasites that are transmissible in a school environment shall demonstrate respect for other students by not attending school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to others. Students who the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent/guardian. Examples include, but are not limited to: Varicella (chicken pox), measles, scabies, **conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)**, impetigo, MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, ringworm, mononucleosis, Hepatitis A, B or C, mumps, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever (100.4 F when taken orally). A student who has been sent home by the school nurse will be subsequently readmitted after 24 hours of effective treatment or absence of **fever** (without the aid of fever-reducing medication), diarrhea, and or vomiting. In some instances, a letter from a healthcare provider may be required before the student can be readmitted to the school.

To help control the possible spread of communicable diseases, school personnel shall follow the District's exposure control plan when dealing with any bloodborne and airborne pathogen exposures. Standard precautions shall be followed relating to the handling, disposal, and cleanup of blood and other potentially infectious materials such as all body fluids, secretions, and excretions (except sweat)/

In accordance with 4.57 – IMMUNIZATIONS, the District shall maintain a copy of each student's immunization record and list of individuals with exemptions from immunization, which shall be education records as defined in policy 4.13. That policy provides that an education record may be disclosed to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated. The student may not return to school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student's return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

Head Lice/pediculosis--The parents/guardians of students who are found to have pediculosis (Head Lice) will be asked to pick up their child at the school immediately. The parents/guardians will be given information concerning the eradication and control of pediculosis. Before a student can be readmitted following an absence due to pediculosis/nits, the school nurse or designee shall examine the student to make sure they are free of any lice/nits. Students who continually have pediculosis/nits will be monitored closely before the student is readmitted each day. Screenings are conducted of students for pediculosis (Head Lice) as needed. The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that respects the privacy and confidentiality of each student.

When a child is sent home by the nurse/administration for nits or lice, the child will be excused for 24 hours. Any days afterward will be considered unexcused and will apply toward the eight (8) unexcused days per semester. After 8 days of unexcused absences due to nits, DHS will be notified. When returning to school, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must bring the child to school for a recheck. The students are not allowed to ride the bus until the recheck has been cleared.

Cross References: 4.2 Entrance Requirements 4.7 Absences 4.13 Privacy of Students' Records/Directory Information
4.57 Immunization

Legal Reference: A.C.A. 6-18-702

Arkansas State Board of Health Rules About Immunization Requirement Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules
Governing Kindergarten through 12th Grade Immunization Requirements
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