



Great Hearts Head Lice Policy:

Great Hearts Academies are committed to utilizing best practice for lice management in a manner that respects the privacy of students and families. Lice exclusions are viewed as necessary when active live lice are present or there is lack of follow up with treating lice. We are committed to taking appropriate measures ensuring the health and safety of all our students and staff members.

Great Hearts “No Live Lice” policy shall be implemented, requiring a student with a confirmed case of live head lice to be treated and most nits removed prior to returning to school. Most nits are defined as those more than ¼ inch from the scalp are not viable and very unlikely to hatch to become active lice, or may in fact be empty shells, also known as 'casings.'

Upon confirmation of live lice, the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick-up their child so that treatment may be expedited. Siblings of the student with live head lice will also be checked.

In the event there is a second finding of live lice in an individual classroom, letters to the parents will be sent to that classroom.

Head Lice Procedure Purpose:

1. Great Hearts Academies recognize that head lice are not responsible for spreading or causing disease, but do cause unrest in our community.
2. Lice are typically **not** spread within the school setting. Lice transmission requires close head-to-head contact or the sharing of personal hair related items.
3. In general, exclusions from school due to nits are no longer considered best practice, supported by the US Center for Disease Control, AZ Department of Health, American Academy of Pediatrics, and National Association of School Nurses.
4. While minor cases, nits, do not necessitate exclusion, excessive infestations of live lice will disrupt the school setting and therefore exclusions will be implemented in these cases.
5. Health office staff, experienced with lice recognition, can greatly assist families with needed lice education and be supportive of families’ treatment efforts.
6. Health office and all school staff will assure students and family’s right to privacy.

Pending Approval