## WEIMAR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

506 W. Main Street – Weimar, Texas 78962 Phone 979-725-6300/Fax 979-725-8737/www.weimarisd.org

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## Weimar ISD Head Lice Protocol

Head lice is very common among children. Although not an illness or a disease, it spreads easily through head-to-head contact during play sports, nap time, and when children share things like brushes, combs, and headphones.

## Weimar ISD does not require or recommend that students be removed from school because of lice or nits.

If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse or designee will contact the student's parent or guardian to discuss a treatment plan using an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student undergoes treatment, the parent or guardian should contact the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments, how best to get rid of lice, and how to prevent lice from returning.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) discourages excluding students from school due to the presence of head lice or nits, as this places a disproportionate emphasis on lice management rather than on more legitimate health concerns. According to DSHS there is little evidence that exclusion from school until no nit is present reduces the transmission of lice.

<u>Texas State Law</u> requires elementary schools to provide written or electronic notification to the parent or guardians of a student with lice within 48 hours. Notice must also be sent to parents or guardians in affected classrooms within five school days without identifying the student with lice. Both notices include the recommendations of the Centers for Disease and Prevention for the control of head lice.

Please see the Weimar ISD Student Handbook for further information.

Thank you, Leslie Kloesel, RN Weimar ISD School Nurse Ikloesel@weimarisd.org (979) 725-6331