



Department: Programs and Services
Section: Programs

Specifically:

The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board believes that schools must be safe, healthy, and respectful places of learning. The Board has a responsibility to maintain a positive, safe, orderly and quality educational environment in all its schools and worksites. Consequently, the AVRSB requires its schools to support families in the management of head lice in a manner that helps all students to feel safe and healthy.

The Board believes it should be informed in the matters of health and safety by policy and guidelines that have been established by those organizations and governmental agencies (for example, the Department of Health and Wellness) that have been given the mandate to develop such policy and guidelines. The Board requires that practices and procedures reflect current information from such agencies and be evidence-based. Consequently, in the matter of the management of head lice in AVRSB schools, the Board's policies take into consideration those of the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness.

The AVRSB acknowledges Department of Health and Wellness policy that **“head lice are more a societal concern than a health problem. Head lice do not cause people to become ill; nor do they spread disease. Families with continuing or recurring challenges with head lice should be assisted and supported by the schools, communities and health professionals.”**

Because the AVRSB supports schools, students, and families in the management of head lice, the AVRSB requires that:

- schools work with the Department of Health and Wellness and health professionals to provide education, information, and support to all parents/guardians, all families, all volunteers, and all community members regarding the management of head lice;
- school protocols, practices, and procedures regarding the management of head lice provide a supportive environment for all students and all families – for example, attendance at school, self-esteem, avoidance of stigmatization/ostracization and;
- schools communicate consistent messages regarding the management of head lice, and utilize information which is current and evidence-based.

Monitoring:

- The Director of Programs and Services is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and revision of this policy.
- This policy will be monitored annually.

Board Approved: April 6/05

Ref: AP 402.14

Monitoring Date: Annually

Revised: March 6/13