

January 8, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may be aware we are taking precautions at the elementary school to address cases of bed bugs being reported in several classrooms. Letters were sent home to parents/guardians of students enrolled in those specific classrooms. If you didn't receive a letter, then there are no reported cases of bed bugs in your child's classroom. To date, bed bugs have only been reported on specific students and there have been no identified infestations within the school itself.

As we continue to address the issue at the school I would like to share some general information on the response to this type of situation. The administrative team of the district is currently using Wallace Board Policy #3520 (www.wsd393.org/files/ugd/cc44e7_db092d9b2713400ca4873480cc464426.pdf), information from the EPA (<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-11/documents/bed-bug-guidance-for-school-teachers.pdf>), and guidance from a professional exterminator to develop the current response plan. In general, cases of bed bugs will be addressed following the steps outlined in the district's Head Lice (Pediculosis) policy. Steps in the response plan will include any combination of the following steps based on a case-by-case basis:

- SHES staff will screen suspected students to identify insects before they are allowed to start their day.
- Upon identification the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the child so treatment can begin immediately.
- Parents/guardians will be provided with educational information to address the infestation.
- Following treatment, the child will be allowed to return to school. Upon arrival the following can take place:
 - The child is re-screened to identify insects.
 - The student is sent back home with their parent to continue treatment.
 - If allowed to stay at school, the child's bookbag, coat, and other clothing are placed in a plastic container and the school provides clean clothes to be worn at school.
- Classrooms, lockers/cubbies, common areas will be treated with the recommended pesticide on a schedule outlined in the specific incident response plan.
- If the student rides a school bus the specific bus will be treated with the recommended pesticide daily.

In response to the current incident, we are taking extra precautions, and we have contracted with an exterminator to perform a pesticide application. To allow the necessary time to conduct the pesticide application, SHES will be closed for school Monday, January 13th. School will resume on its regular schedule Tuesday, January 14th.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information outlined above, please contact your child's school or the district office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Todd Howard
Superintendent of Schools
Wallace School District #393