

REFUSAL TO HARM OR DESTROY ANIMALS

The Board of Trustees affirms its commitment to quality science education for every student enrolled in the district. The Board encourages the use of a variety of approaches and materials in the science program to provide as interesting, stimulating and authentic programs as possible. In view of this, the Board recognizes and commends the use of a hands-on approach to science including, but not limited to, dissection of prepared specimens and where appropriate the use of live organisms. In these activities it is the Board's intent and the teachers' responsibility to guarantee that such activities are conducted in a manner to increase the students' respect for life and their sense of wonder and appreciation for the miracle of life and the value of scientific investigation. The Board will not condone or tolerate any activity that is sadistic in nature and involves deliberate cruelty to any organism. The Board recognizes that some students have ethical objections to dissection and directs staff to provide alternative assignments to those students.

The Board supports the right of students to refrain from participating in instruction which involves dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals when they have a moral objection to such activities.

Students will not be discriminated against because of a decision to exercise this right. (Education Code 32255.1)

(cf. 5145.2 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

After notifying the teacher of his/her objection pursuant to law and administrative regulations, the student will be excused from the project and shall be provided an appropriate alternative project. The Board directs staff, to provide an alternative project that teaches the equivalent knowledge and skills as the original project. In all cases, staff will plan for the effective use of students' time by providing instructional activities relevant to the course of study.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32255-32255.6 Student's right to refrain from harmful/destructive use of animals

48980 Parental notification at beginning of term

48981-48984 Method and content of notification; signature required