

ANIMAL DISSECTION

The board, by law, will allow pupils to refuse to participate in animal dissection.

1. The board will offer an alternate education program for a course or portion of a course involving dissection of animals.
2. A public school pupil from kindergarten through grade 12 may refuse to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of a course of instruction.
 - a. "Alternative education project" means the use of video tapes, models, films, books, computers, or any other tools which provide an alternative method for obtaining and testing the knowledge, information, or experience required by a course of study.
 - b. "Animal" means any living organism that is an invertebrate, or is in the phylum chordata or organisms which have a notochord and includes an animal's cadaver or severed parts of an animal's cadaver.
3. The school shall notify pupils and their parents or guardians at the beginning of each school year of the right to decline to participate in the activities enumerated in subsection a. of this section and shall authorize parents or guardians to assert the right of their children to refuse to participate in these activities. Within two weeks of the receipt of the notice, the pupils, parents or guardians shall notify the school if the right to decline participation in the enumerated activities will be exercised.
4. Any pupil who chooses to refrain from participation in or observation of a portion of a course of instruction in accordance with this section shall be offered an alternative education project for the purpose of providing the pupil with the factual knowledge, information or experience required by the course of study. A pupil may refuse to participate in an alternative education project which involves or necessitates any harmful use of an animal or animal parts.
5. A pupil shall not be discriminated against, in grading or in any other manner, based upon a decision to exercise the rights afforded pursuant to this act.

Adopted: May 15, 2006

Legal References: <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:4-25	Prescribing minimum courses of study for public schools; approval of courses of study
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:33-1	District to furnish suitable facilities; adoption of courses of study
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:34-1	Textbooks; selection; furnished free with supplies; appropriations

