

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**POLICY: ANIMAL DISSECTION****DATE ADOPTED:** January 3, 2023**POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the intent of the Colchester School District to comply with the requirements of Act 154 of 2008 regarding the right of students to be excused from participating in or observing activities involving the dissection or vivisection of animals. Students enrolled in district schools shall have the right to be excused from participating in any lesson, exercise or assessment requiring the student to dissect, vivisect or otherwise harm or destroy an animal or any part of an animal, or to observe any of these activities, as part of a course of instruction.

DEFINITION

As used in this policy, the word “animal” means any organism of the kingdom animalia and includes an animal’s cadaver or the severed parts of an animal’s cadaver.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION METHOD

A student who is excused under this policy shall be provided with alternative methods through which he or she can learn and be assessed on material required by the course. The alternative methods shall be developed by the teacher of the course, in consultation with the principal if necessary.

DISCRIMINATION

No student shall be discriminated against based on their decision to exercise the right to be excused afforded by this policy.

PROCEDURES

The superintendent/principal shall develop and implement procedures to ensure compliance with the provisions of Act 154 of 2008. The procedures shall include provisions for the timely notification to each student enrolled in the course and to the student’s parent or guardian of the student’s right to be excused from participating in or observing the lesson and the process by which a student may exercise this right.

Legal Reference(s):

Act 154 of 2007-2008 Adjourned Session
16 V.S.A. §912

Last Adopted: September 6, 2016
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