

**STUDENT CHOICE
– ANIMAL DISSECTION**

PREAMBLE

The Provincial science curriculum for elementary and secondary students outlines a number of learning outcomes requiring students to learn about animal systems. One teaching strategy implemented as a means for students to learn about animal systems is animal dissection. The Board recognizes that students, with parent/guardian consent can choose not to participate in or observe animal dissections for cultural, religious or ethical reasons.

POLICY

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFIRMS THE RIGHT OF STUDENTS TO CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN OR OBSERVE ANIMAL DISSECTIONS FOR CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS OR ETHICAL BELIEFS. DISTRICT SCHOOLS WILL PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES WHICH MEET THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM LEARNING OUTCOMES.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. All district schools will be informed by the Superintendent of Schools or designate of the policy regarding the alternatives to animal dissection.
2. In any class where animal dissection is part of the curricular program, schools will inform students in writing and through a verbal announcement that they have a choice to not participate in animal dissection and that an alternative activity will be made available.
3. Students who choose not to participate in animal dissection will require a parent/guardian signature prior to commencement of the dissection activity.
4. Information about this option will be provided at the beginning of each course during which the dissection is scheduled and just prior to the dissection. Information will also be included in all course outlines where animal dissection is included as a part of the curricular program.

5. An alternative activity which meets the curricular learning outcomes must be provided, and must offer an equal learning experience.
6. All student assessments will be based on the science curriculum outcomes. For students who choose an alternative activity, assessment of their progress will be similar to assessment processes used for dissection activities.
7. Alternatives to animal dissection will be available in all district schools and schools will be responsible for providing comparable and viable alternatives including use of books, videotapes, models, film, computer simulations and interactive CD's.

Date Adopted: 2011 01 25
Date(s) Revised

Cross References: