

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE #414

STUDENT CHOICE – ANIMAL DISSECTION

BACKGROUND

The Provincial science curriculum for elementary and secondary students outlines content 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 District recognizes that students, with parent and/or guardian consent, can choose not to participate in or observe animal dissections for cultural, religious or ethical reasons.

PROCEDURES

1. All District schools will be informed by the Superintendent of Schools or designate of this administrative procedure regarding the alternatives to animal dissection.
2. Alternatives to animal dissection will be available in all District schools and schools will be responsible for providing comparable and viable alternatives which meet the same learning standards as the dissection activity.
3. 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 part of the curricular program. An alternative activity which meets the curricular content will be provided.
4. Students who choose not to participate in animal dissection will require a parent and/or guardian signature prior to commencement of the dissection activity.
5. For students who choose an alternative activity, assessment of their progress will be similar to assessment processes used for dissection activities.

Date Adopted: 2011-01
Date(s) Revised
Converted from Policy 5.40 2026-02

Cross References: