

**REFUSAL TO HARM OR DESTROY ANIMALS**

The Governing Board recognizes that some students have a moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals. California law grants these students the right to refrain from participation in instruction which involves such activities.

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

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32255-32255.6 Pupil's rights to refrain from the harmful or destructive use of animals

48980 Required notification at beginning of term

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Each teacher of a course that uses live or dead animals or animal parts shall inform students of their right pursuant to Education Codes 32255-32255.6. Students may then notify the teacher of their objection. If a student's objection is substantiated by a note from his/her parent/guardian and if the teacher believes an adequate alternative educational project is possible, the teacher may work with the student to develop and agree upon an alternative project which would provide the knowledge, information or experience required by the course of study. The alternative project shall involve time and effort comparable to that required by the original project. (Education Code 32255.1)

The alternative project may not, as a means of penalizing the student, be more arduous than the original project. (Education Code 32255.1)

A teacher's decision in determining if a student may pursue an alternative project or be excused from the project must not be arbitrary or capricious. (Education Code 32255.3)

Students who choose an alternative project shall pass all examinations in order to receive course credit. The student may seek alternative tests, however, for any test requiring the harmful or destructive use of animals. (Education Code 32255.1)