

TREATMENT OF VERTEBRATE ANIMALS AND DISSECTION**Classes Involving Dissection**

Teachers shall give reasonable notice to students enrolled in a course that involves the dissection of an animal and students' parents or legal guardians about their rights under Education Law §809(5). Such notice shall be shared at least once at the beginning of the course and will be available to parents or guardians, if requested.

Except with appropriate waivers from the Commissioner of Education, the South Colonie Central School District and staff members shall not permit the performance of a lesson or experimental study on a live vertebrate animal in any such school or during any activity conducted under the auspices of such school whether or not the activity takes place on the premises of such school where such lesson or experimental study employs:

1. micro-organisms which cause disease in humans or animals,
2. ionizing radiation,
3. known cancer producing agents,
4. chemicals at toxic levels,
5. drugs producing pain or deformity,
6. severe extremes of temperature,
7. electric or other shock,
8. excessive noise,
9. noxious fumes,
10. exercise to exhaustion,
11. overcrowding,
12. paralysis by muscle relaxants or other means,
13. deprivation or excess of food, water or other essential nutrients,
14. surgery or other invasive procedures,
15. other extreme stimuli, or
16. termination of life.

Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of this section, the Commissioner may, upon the submission of a written program plan, issue to such school a written waiver of such restrictions for students subject to the following provisions:

1. the student shall be in Grade 10, 11, or 12; and
2. the student shall be under the supervision of one or more teachers certified in Science; and
3. the student shall be pursuing an accelerated course of study in the sciences as defined by the Commissioner in preparation for taking a state or national Advanced Placement (AP) examination.

The Commissioner shall issue a waiver of such restrictions for any teacher certified in Science instructing such student. The written program plan shall include, but not be limited to:

1. the educational basis for requesting a waiver;
2. the objective of the lesson or experiment;
3. the methods and techniques to be used; and
4. any other information required by the Commissioner.

Reference: NYS Education Law, Article 17 § 809(5) – Treatment of Live Vertebrate Animals
Instructions and Application Form for Waiver of Regulations

Approved: January 17, 2012