

ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOLS

The Board of Education recognizes that the study of living things is essential to effective instruction in the life sciences. The primary goals for demonstrations and investigations involving animals are to achieve an interest in and an understanding of the life processes, to demonstrate biological principles, and to teach proper care and handling of animals. Therefore, the board requires that any such instructional activities, investigations, and projects be well-planned and adequately supervised, and be conducted with a respect for life and an appreciation of the health and safety of both animals and the students.

The Board also recognizes that some students have a moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals. In accordance with state law, students shall have the right to opt out of dissection activities, provided that the student performs an alternative project approved by the student's teacher. The objection must be submitted in writing by the student or his or her parent or guardian.

Ref: Education Law §809
Guidelines for the Use of Vertebrate Animals in Elementary and Secondary programs of New York State, State Education Department Syllabus
8 NYCRR Part 200; §§200.1; 200.2; 200.3; 200.7; 200.8; 200.16-200.20

Policy Adopted: May 7, 1997

Wayne Central School District