

REFUSAL TO HARM OR DESTROY ANIMALS

At the beginning of each academic year, the district science teachers shall notify parents/guardians, in writing, of students' right to refrain from instruction involving harm or destruction of animals. (Education Code 48980, 48981)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

In addition, each teacher of a course that uses live or dead animals or animal parts shall inform students of their right to refrain from the harmful or destructive use of animals. (Education Code 32255.4)

Students who wish to refrain from such instruction shall notify the teacher and shall provide a note from their parent/guardian substantiating the objection. (Education Code 32255.1)

A teacher's determination of whether a student may pursue an alternative project or be excused from the project shall not be arbitrary or capricious. (Education Code 32255.3)

If the teacher believes an adequate alternative project is possible, he/she 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. Alternative projects include but are not limited to the use of video tapes, models, films, books, and computers. The alternative project shall involve time and effort comparable to that required by the original project. (Education Code 32255, 32255.1)

Students who participate in an alternative project shall pass all course examinations in order to receive course credit. Students may request an alternative test, however, if a regular examination requires the harmful or destructive use of animals. (Education Code 32255.1)

This right shall apply to all K-12 courses, except classes and activities conducted as part of agricultural education, that provide instruction on the care, management, and evaluation of domestic animals. (Education Code 32255.5, 32255.6)