

## Instruction

**SUBJECT: ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL (INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES)**

Observation and experimentation with living organisms and animals gives students unique perspectives of life processes. Animals and animal materials should be used respectfully and for the purpose of meeting course objectives.

The Board, in recognizing the educational uses of animals in the classroom, requires that permission be obtained from the building principal before animals are brought into the school or classrooms. It is the principal's responsibility to ensure that there is an appropriate educational purpose if any animal is housed in a classroom. Animals are not to be transported on school buses with the exception of service animals.

**Study and Care of Live Animals**

It will be the responsibility of the principal or designee to develop a plan of care for those animals housed in school in the event of an emergency school closing or in the event the animals remain in the classroom on days when school is not in session.

**Dissection of Animals**

Any student expressing a moral or religious objection to the performance or witnessing of the dissection of an animal, either wholly or in part, will be provided the opportunity to undertake and complete an alternative project approved by the student's teacher; provided, however, that this objection is substantiated in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian. An alternate activity clearly related to and of comparable rigor will be assigned in lieu of laboratory dissection. Some examples of alternate activities include the use of computer simulations or research. Students who perform alternative projects will not be penalized.

The District will give reasonable notice to all students enrolled in a course that includes the dissection of an animal and students' parent(s) or legal guardian(s) about their rights to seek an alternate project to dissection. This notice will be made available upon request at the school and distributed to parents and students enrolled in a course that includes dissection at least once at the beginning of the school year.

**Instruction in the Humane Treatment of Animals**

Students in elementary school must receive instruction in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature as well as the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals that are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty. This instruction will be for a period of time as specified by the Board of Regents and may be joined with work in literature, reading, language, nature study, or ethnology.

Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC Section 12101 et seq.  
Education Law Section 809  
8 NYCRR Section 100.2(c)(9)  
Adopted: 8/12/25