

**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)

At the beginning of each academic year, the district shall notify students and parents/guardians of the students' right to refrain from instruction involving harm or destruction of animals. (Education Code 48980) Such notification shall also be given to students by each teacher of a course that uses live or dead animals or animal parts. (Education Code 32255.4)

(cf. 5145.6 - Notifications Required by Law)

Agricultural education classes are exempt from the legal provisions which allow students this right. (Education Code 32255.6)

The Board encourages staff to accommodate students who request alternative educational projects in lieu of those which entail harm or destruction of animals.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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

48990 Required notification at beginning of term

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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