HEWLETT-WOODMERE **Policy 4850**

( ) Required
( ) Local
( ) Notice

ANIMAL DISSECTION 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 students.

The Board also recognizes that some students have a moral or religious objection to dissection 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 substantiated in writing by the student's parent/guardian or person in parental relation to the student.

At the start of the school year, teachers of courses that include animal dissection shall give notice to the students in those classes of their opt-out rights and responsibilities under the law and this policy. Such notice shall be shared with the student's parent/guardian or person in parental relation to the student, and also be available upon request in the school office.

Ref: Education Law §809(4)
Responsible Use of Live Animals and Dissection in the Science Classroom, National Science Teaching Association Position Statement, revised March 2008 (https://www.nsta.org/nstas-official-positions/responsible-use-live-animals-and-dissection-science-classroom)

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