

**POLICY #6144(a)  
REQUIRED**

**WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT  
POLICY ON ANIMAL DISSECTION**

It is the intent of the Winooski School District to comply with the requirements of Act 154 of 2008 regarding the right of students to be excused from participating in or observing activities involving the dissection or vivisection of animals. Students enrolled in district schools shall have the right to be excused from participating in any lesson, exercise of assessment requiring the student to dissect, vivisect or otherwise harm or destroy an animal or any part of an animal, or to observe any of these activities, as part of a course of instruction.

Definition: As used in this policy, the word “animal” means any organism of the kingdom animalia and includes an animal’s cadaver or the severed parts of an animal’s cadaver.

Alternative Education Method: A student who is excused under this policy shall be provided with alternative methods through which he or she can learn and be assessed on material required by the course. The alternative methods shall be developed by the teacher of the course, in consultation with the principal if necessary.

Discrimination: No student shall be discriminated against based on his or her decision to exercise the right to be excused afforded by this policy.

PROCEDURES: (also referred to as rules or regulations) are the specific directions that indicate exactly how school personnel and others will carry out the policies adopted by the School Board. Procedures will be developed by the Superintendent in consultation with staff and are attached. Procedures may change more frequently than the underlying policy and do not require adoption by the Board.

Reviewed and Updated:

1st Reading: March 14, 2018

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: April 11, 2018

Approved by Board of School Trustees: April 11, 2018

Legal Reference(s): 16 V.S.A. § 912

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Cross Reference(s):

**PROCEDURES:**

1. The Superintendent/Principal shall develop and implement procedures to ensure compliance with the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 912. The procedures shall include provisions for the timely notification to each student enrolled in the course and to the student's parent or guardian of the student's right to be excused from participating in or observing the lesson and the process by which a student may exercise this right.
2. Teachers will notify parents/guardians and students annually through handbooks or course syllabi if such activities will take place during the course. Students and parents must notify in advance the desire to opt out before the specific activity commences.