

Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union Ludlow Elementary School District Mount Holly Elementary School District Plymouth School District Union #39 School District	ANIMAL DISSECTION	POLICY: G13
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Policy

It is the policy of the Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union, Ludlow Elementary School District, Mount Holly Elementary School District, Plymouth School District and Union #39 School District (hereinafter “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 the District school shall have the right to be excused from participating in any lesson, exercise or 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.

I. Definitions

A. 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.

II. Alternative Education Method

A. 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.

III. Discrimination

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

IV. Procedure/Action

A. The Principal shall develop and implement procedures to ensure compliance with the provisions of Act 154 of 2008. 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.

Legal Reference(s): *Act 154 of 2007-2008 Adjourned Session*
 16 V.S.A. §912

District:	Reviewed only	Date Warned	Date Adopted	Replaces Policy
Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union		September 7, 2008	December 4, 2008	n/a
Ludlow Elementary School District		September 19, 2008	October 1, 2008	n/a
Mount Holly Elementary School District		September 26, 2008	October 20, 2008	n/a
Plymouth School District		September 25, 2008	October 7, 2008	n/a
Union #39 School District		September 19, 2008	October 15, 2008	n/a