

# SOUTHERN FULTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: ALTERNATIVES TO  
ACTIVITIES INVOLVING  
ANIMALS

ADOPTED: February 19, 2008

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose SC 1523 Title 22 Sec. 4.4(d)</p> <p>2. Definitions</p> <p>3. Authority</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">105.3. ALTERNATIVES TO ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ANIMALS</p> <p>It is the policy of Southern Fulton School District to permit students to refuse to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals, or any parts thereof, as part of their course of instruction. Furthermore, it is the policy of the district to provide a non-animal alternative education project as an alternative means of imparting the knowledge, information or experience required by the course of instruction.</p> <p>As used in this policy, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:</p> <p><b>Alternative education project</b> shall include, but is not limited to, the use of video tapes, models, films, books and computers which would provide an alternate avenue for obtaining the knowledge, information or experience required by the course of study in question. The term also includes alternative tests.</p> <p><b>Animal</b> shall mean any living organism of the kingdom animalia in the phylum chordata, organisms which have a notochord. The term also includes an animal's cadaver or severed parts of an animal's cadaver.</p> <p><b>Student</b> shall mean a person twenty-one (21) years of age or under who is matriculated in a course of instruction in the district from kindergarten through grade 12. For the purpose of asserting the student's rights and receiving any notice or response pursuant to this section, the term also includes the parents/guardian of the student.</p> <p>The district shall notify students of the right to decline to participate in an education program involving harmful or destructive use of animals and authorize parents/guardians to assert this right of their children to refuse to participate in such projects.</p>
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<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p>Notice of the student's right to refuse to participate in such projects shall be given not less than three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled course exercise which involves the use of animals.</p> <p>Any student who chooses to refrain from participation in or observation of a portion of a course of instruction governed by this policy shall be offered an alternative education project. If tests require harmful or destructive use of animals, students shall be offered alternative tests.</p> <p>No student shall be discriminated against based upon his or her decision to exercise the right afforded that pupil by this policy. The lowering of a grade because a student has chosen an alternative education project or test is strictly prohibited under this policy.</p> <p>A parent/guardian wishing to decline participation on the part of his or her child shall execute the following election:</p> <p>I, _____, parent/guardian of _____ a student in grade _____ of Southern Fulton School District, decline to permit the within named student to participate in any educational project involving harmful or destructive use of animals. I understand that my son/daughter shall be offered an alternative education project for the purpose of providing an avenue for obtaining the factual knowledge, information or experience required by the course of study.</p> <p>_____ Date</p> <p>_____ Parent/Guardian</p>
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