
Presented to the School Board for Review on 11/22/00 & 12/13/00

DISSECTION

The Board of School Trustees reaffirms its long-standing commitment to quality science education for every student enrolled in the Storey County School District. Further, the Board recognizes the educational value of dissection activities as part of a comprehensive science curricula that stresses experiences that enhances student's respect for all life and the protection of all species' welfare. The Board directs that staff members consider a variety of methodologies to reach the curricular objectives associated with dissection activities. Finally, the Board supports the protection of threatened or endangered species and prohibits the use of members of these species in dissection activities. Recognizing the aforementioned philosophical beliefs, the Board adopts the following policy:

Alternate Assignments

The Science teacher will display sensitivity to the ethical concerns of students. In the event that a student wishes not to participate in a dissection activity, it is the responsibility of the student and teacher to arrange for an alternate assignment which will best approximate the class content. Requests for non-participation must be submitted in writing and indicate parent/guardian consent. It is understood that students who have obtained permission not to participate may be excused from the room during any dissection activities.

Selection of Dissection Specimens

All specimens must be lawfully acquired in accordance with state and local laws. All dissection activities shall be directly supervised by a competent science teacher.

The following is a list of approved specimens for dissection activities in the Storey County School District:

Plants, Porifera, Coelenterata, Worms, Echinodermata, Molluca Monerans, Fungi, Protist, Arthropoda representatives of the Animal Kingdom: up to and including the following vertebrates: perch or other fish, frogs, fetal pigs. Fetal Pigs may be dissected in Advanced Placement classes and in Physiology classes only.

Additionally, organs/tissue from legally obtained game animals or specimens from commercial slaughter houses are acceptable.

No dissection procedure shall be performed on any living vertebrate animal.

Use of Dissecting Instruments and Specimens

Students should be instructed in the safe use of dissection instruments. Special care should be taken to avoid cuts or scratches when cleaning scalpels or needles.

When appropriate, approved goggles and gloves must be worn during dissections.

When specimens are removed from preservation solutions rubber gloves should be worn or forceps or tongs used depending on the size of the specimen.

Adequate ventilation should be provided whenever potentially dangerous preservative fumes are present.

Storey County School District
Policy Manual
Section: Instruction
Title: Dissection

Adopted: _____

Revised: 10/26/00
10-23-02

Previous Policy Number: IKG

Students should wash their hands after handling any animals in the laboratory or classroom.

The disposal of dissection specimens should be accomplished with consideration for environmental concerns and in compliance with state and local laws. It is the responsibility of the teacher to make every effort that disposal is carried out in a safe, ecologically-conscientious manner.