

Student's Right Not to Participate in Experiments Involving Animals

In 2005 legislation was passed (P.L. 2005, Chapter 266 (C.18A:35-4.24 & C.18A:35-4.25) that allows public school students to choose not to participate in certain experiments involving animals. Public school pupils from kindergarten through grade 12 may refuse to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of a course of instruction. Schools are required to provide alternative education projects for those students who choose to "opt out" of these activities. Parents are required to notify the school of their desire to have their child exempt from participation in these instructional activities. The school will then provide an alternative education project for the student to complete. Students will not be discriminated against, in grading or otherwise, based upon his or her decision to exercise the rights afforded in the act.