

**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RYE, NEW YORK**

**4850**

**ANIMAL DISSECTIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES**

The District recognizes that the study of living things is essential to effective instruction in the life sciences. The primary goals for demonstrations and investigations involving animals are to achieve an interest in and an understanding of the life processes, to demonstrate biological principles, and to teach proper care and handling of specimens for purposes of scientific inquiry. Therefore, any such instructional activities, investigations, and projects, will be well planned and adequately supervised, and will be conducted with a respect for life and an appreciation of the health and safety of both animals and students.

The District also recognizes that some students may have a moral or religious objection to dissections or otherwise harming or destroying animals. In accordance with state law, students shall have the right to opt out of dissection activities, provided that the student performs an alternative project approved by his/her teacher. The objection must be substantiated in writing by the students' parent or guardian using the appropriate form. The opt-out form will be available on the District website and provided upon request at any school. Notice of the ability to opt out will be distributed to students enrolled in a course that includes dissection at least once at the beginning of the school year.

Ref: Education Law §809(4)  
*Responsible Use of Live Animals and Dissection in the Science Classroom*,  
National Science Teachers Association Position Statement, revised March 2008  
([www.nsta.org/about/positions/animals.aspx](http://www.nsta.org/about/positions/animals.aspx))  
4850-F Animal Dissections for Educational Purposes Opt Out Form for Animal Dissection for Religious or Moral Objections

Adoption Date: September 1, 2015

**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANIMAL DISSECTIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES  
OPT-OUT FORM FOR ANIMAL DISSECTION FOR RELIGIOUS OR MORAL OBJECTIONS**

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a student in the Rye City School District.

I have read District Policy 4850 Animal Dissections for Educational Purposes and I understand that in accordance with the District’s Policy and Education Law, my son/daughter has the right to opt out of animal dissection based on moral or religious objections.

I further understand that in accordance with said Policy, my son/daughter must complete an alternate project approved by his/her teacher.

I herewith confirm that my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_  
(student’s name)  
objects to participating in animal dissection based on the following reasons:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

and give him/her permission to opt out of animal dissection.

He/she will complete an alternate project which has been approved by his/her teacher.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Date: