

## Appendix 2

### Statement to introduce evolution

The state standards require students to learn about Darwin's Theory of Evolution and to eventually take a standardized test of which evolution is part.

Because Darwin's Theory is a theory, it is still being tested as new evidence is discovered. The theory is not a fact. Gaps in the theory exist for which there is no evidence. A theory is defined as a well-tested explanation that unifies a broad range of observations.

**Intelligent Design** is an explanation of the origin of life that differs from Darwin's view. The reference book, *Of Pandas and People*, is available for students to see if they would like to explore this view in an effort to gain an understanding of what **Intelligent Design** actually involves. As is true with any theory, students are encouraged to keep an open mind.

The school leaves the discussion of the Origins of Life up to individual students and their families. As a standards-driven district, class instruction focuses on the standards and preparing students to be successful on standards-based assessments.

The administration will not comment on the issue, but according to a statement released by the district, both Assistant Supt. Michael Baksa and Supt. Richard Nilsen will monitor the instruction to make sure no one is promoting, but also not inhibiting religion.

SOURCE: *York Daily Record*, November 23, 2004.

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