

Compassion Education: **CONNECT** & **INSPIRE**

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

ALASKA STEM & SEL BENCHMARK ALIGNMENT

This document outlines how ReelTime Animal Rescue's Compassion Education: **CONNECT** & **Inspire** program aligns with the STEM & SEL benchmarks set forth by the Alaska Department of Education. The program is designed to meet key educational standards through real-time content fostering critical thinking and empathy along with real-world social-emotional skills.

STEM Benchmarks Alignment

GRADES: K–2 (GLE Domains: SA, SB, SC)

Benchmark: Recognize seasonal patterns, animal needs, and basic habitat concepts. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Live cameras show real-time animal behavior in different climates (e.g., desert sanctuaries vs. snowy enclosures), helping students observe how animals adapt to seasons.
- Activities include drawing and labeling animal needs based on livestreams (food, shelter, warmth), directly supporting observation and classification skills.
- Children begin making simple comparisons across environments, aligned with Alaska's early environmental literacy goals.

GRADES: 3–5 (GLE SC3.2, Inquiry Domain)

Benchmark: Understand interdependence in ecosystems, food webs, and human influence. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students watch natural animal behaviors—such as feeding and grooming—and begin mapping out who eats what and how environments are connected.
- Use of observation journals encourages elementary students to practice scientific thinking: what's happening, why, and what might change it.
- Classroom discussions tie what students see (e.g., injured wildlife from oil spills) to real environmental responsibility, bringing science and ethics together.

GRADES: 6–8 (GLE SC6.1, SC6.2)

Benchmark: Analyze human impacts on natural systems; develop models and conduct investigations. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students use streamed footage and rescue stories to explore topics like pollution, habitat loss, and climate challenges in Alaska and globally.
- They model causes and effects — such as what happens when an invasive species is rescued or when local habitats are destroyed.
- Compassion Education encourages student-driven case studies, combining inquiry, observation, and multimedia storytelling — all core to Alaska's middle school STEM focus.

GRADES: 9–12 (GLE SB4, SC4.3)

Benchmark: Evaluate biodiversity, sustainability, and ethical decision-making. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Teens engage with cross-disciplinary rescue cases, evaluating complex issues like species preservation vs. human development.
- They are challenged to analyze policy, ethics, and science, often producing video PSAs or written advocacy work — directly supporting Alaska's high school standards for science application and civic engagement.
- The program provides authentic data sources, including animal health, rescue timelines, and environment descriptions — letting students cite real-world evidence.

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SEL Alignment: Alaska + CASEL Integration

GRADES: K–2 (ACOS Science K.8, 1.9)

- Self-Awareness: Young learners name and recognize emotions they feel while watching baby animals recover or reunite with caretakers.
- Social Awareness: Simple discussion prompts help children understand caring and kindness, fostering early empathy.

GRADES: 3–5 (ACOS 3.7, 4.6)

- Relationship Skills: Students collaborate on writing stories or creating rescue posters, learning to respect diverse ideas and express themselves.
- Responsible Decision-Making: Kids explore how humans affect animals, and brainstorm small ways to help, encouraging proactive thinking.

GRADES: 6–8 (ACOS 7.5, 7.6)

- Self-Management: Compassion Education provides safe exposure to tough topics, helping students reflect, stay engaged, and manage emotions around rescue scenarios.
- Social Awareness: Livestreams and case studies show global animal care perspectives, encouraging cultural empathy — a key SEL standard in Alaska.

GRADES: 9–12 (ACOS Biology 10.4)

- Ethical Reasoning & Civic Engagement: High school students explore climate action, land-use ethics, and policy-based advocacy—directly aligned with Alaska's goals to develop thoughtful, empowered citizens.
- Students create real-world deliverables: advocacy campaigns, scientific arguments, or public presentations, integrating SEL with civic literacy.