

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

ARIZONA 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 Arizona 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 (AZ Standard K.L1U1.5)

Benchmark: Recognize and describe living vs. non-living things; identify animal needs. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students watch real animals in real time, learning to distinguish living characteristics (movement, growth, care needs) from non-living surroundings.
- Lessons include identifying basic needs (food, water, shelter) of animals as they appear on the livestream.
- Promotes early cause-effect reasoning, such as: "What happens if a turtle doesn't have clean water?"

GRADES: 3–5 (AZ Standard 4.L4U3.11)

Benchmark: Analyze energy transfer and interdependence in ecosystems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Through livestreams, students observe habitats and food chains (e.g., herbivores, carnivores, omnivores) across various climates.
- Promotes data collection and analysis, as students track and compare animal behavior from different sanctuaries.
- Local and global rescue stories illustrate real-world human impact on the environment.

GRADES: 6–8 (AZ Standard 7.L2U1.9)

Benchmark: Evaluate biodiversity and limiting factors in ecosystems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students apply systems thinking as they explore how habitat destruction or invasive species affect ecosystems shown on camera.
- Supports investigative science using technology (e.g., watching, logging, and reporting on animal behavior and ecosystem challenges).
- Allows for student-led inquiry projects based on actual animals in recovery or conservation care.

GRADES: 9–12 (AZ HS+Bio+L4U3.11)

Benchmark: Construct arguments from evidence about environmental and sustainability decisions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students use livestream footage and global rescue data to build persuasive arguments about wildlife protection, climate change, or conservation policy.
- Encourages interdisciplinary thinking with opportunities to blend science, ethics, policy, and communication.
- Capstone projects can include media campaigns, essays, or debates, grounded in scientific inquiry and ethical reasoning.

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GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Students name their feelings when watching an injured animal recover.
- Social Awareness: Learners begin to understand kindness, care, and empathy, often through group storytelling or drawing activities.

GRADES: 3-5

- Relationship Skills: Students work together to create conservation messages or "care cards" for animals.
- Responsible Decision-Making: Learners reflect on how choices affect animals and nature, using age-appropriate journaling or classroom discussions.

GRADES: 6-8

- Self-Management: Compassion Education teaches students how to navigate complex emotions, like sadness or hope, when hearing about rescued or endangered animals.
- Social Awareness: Students explore global cultural perspectives around animals and nature via streamed content from international partners.

GRADES: 9-12

- Ethical Reasoning: Teens explore real-world dilemmas, such as wildlife relocation or factory farming, and evaluate these through research and discussion.
- Civic Engagement: High school students lead projects, write persuasive essays, or deliver presentations designed to make a difference in their schools or communities.