

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

ARKANSAS 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 Arkansas 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 (Standards: K-ESS2-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1)

Benchmark: Observe patterns in nature; understand animal structures and survival needs. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students watch animals live in different environments and observe how they behave, move, eat, and interact — fostering real-world pattern recognition.
- Simple science prompts like “What does this animal need to survive?” align with survival and habitat standards.
- Children explore animal adaptations through videos of animals in varying climates and conditions, reinforcing foundational biology.

GRADES: 3–5 (Standards: 3-LS4-3, 4-ESS3-1, 5-ESS3-1)

Benchmark: Model ecosystems and human-environment interactions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Learners compare environments using livestreams from different sanctuaries — like wetlands, deserts, and forests — to understand ecosystems and food chains.
- Students discuss and model how human behavior (pollution, deforestation) affects animals they're watching in real time.
- These real-world examples help students visualize systems and impacts, supporting their understanding of ecosystems and conservation.

GRADES: 6–8 (Standards: MS-LS2-5, MS-ESS3-3)

Benchmark: Evaluate biodiversity and effects of environmental change. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Using rescue footage and case studies, students identify threats to biodiversity and examine what makes ecosystems resilient.
- Learners use systems thinking to analyze how different species rely on each other — and what happens when parts of the system break down.
- Students also use livestreams and data to propose solutions to local and global problems, reinforcing their modeling and problem-solving skills.

GRADES: 9–12 (Standards: HS-LS2-7, HS-ESS3-4)

Benchmark: Apply concepts of conservation and sustainability in real-world contexts. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students take on interdisciplinary projects using actual rescue cases, applying biology, ethics, and civic responsibility to their research.
- Projects might include policy analysis, debates on conservation ethics, or designing rescue-based education campaigns — all grounded in Arkansas's sustainability standards.
- Students learn to argue from evidence, back claims with data, and connect with global causes through media and storytelling.

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GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Students talk about how watching animals makes them feel — happy, worried, curious — helping them name and understand emotions.
- Social Awareness: Learners build empathy by discussing why animals need help and how caretakers show kindness.

GRADES: 3-5

- Relationship Skills: Students work together on posters, group reflections, or projects that encourage cooperation and compassion.
- Responsible Decision-Making: Reflect on how everyday choices (like recycling or water use) can help protect animals and habitats.

GRADES: 6-8

- Self-Management: Through journaling and discussion, students learn to process emotional or challenging rescue stories constructively.
- Social Awareness: Learners explore cultural attitudes toward animals and nature through global livestream content, helping them understand perspectives different from their own.

GRADES: 9-12

- Ethical Leadership & Civic Engagement: Teens take initiative, creating projects or campaigns tied to rescue, recovery, and conservation — practicing decision-making with real-world consequences.
- Self-Reflection: Students consider how their values and actions impact animals, the environment, and their communities, reinforcing identity, purpose, and empathy.