

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



## Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

### CALIFORNIA 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 California 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-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1)

Benchmark: Identify patterns in behavior and recognize basic environmental needs. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students observe animals live via livestream and identify how they meet basic survival needs (eating, resting, shelter).
- Lessons focus on cause-and-effect relationships (e.g., "What happens if an animal doesn't have clean water?").
- Encourages early environmental awareness, helping students begin to see how humans impact animal care and habitats.

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

Benchmark: Model environmental change and understand adaptations. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students use real-time animal observations to construct models of habitats, food chains, and ecosystem roles.
- They discuss how animals adapt to environments and the effects of natural or human-induced change.
- Students reflect on how rescue centers restore or protect habitats, promoting systems thinking.

##### GRADES: 6-8 (Standards: MS-LS2-4, MS-ESS3-3)

Benchmark: Use argumentation and evaluate solutions to environmental problems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Middle school students analyze biodiversity and use case studies from livestreams to explore ecosystem stability.
- Apply evidence-based reasoning by watching and logging changes in real animals' recovery or habitat over time.
- Explore ethical dilemmas, such as invasive species control or wildlife relocation, and evaluate possible solutions.

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

Benchmark: Design solutions for sustainability and evaluate ethical/environmental decisions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students lead cross-disciplinary projects, designing campaigns or solutions based on real animal rescue footage and data.
- They practice ethical reasoning, combining biology, conservation, and civic education.
- Capstone options include persuasive essays, policy analysis, or public presentations on animal advocacy and sustainability.

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#### GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Students name emotions when watching animals in distress or joy.
- Social Awareness: Children develop empathy and learn how humans help animals in need.

#### GRADES: 3-5

- Relationship Skills: Students collaborate on projects like animal care posters or kindness videos.
- Responsible Decision-Making: Reflect on how everyday actions (e.g., using less plastic) can support animal life.

#### GRADES: 6-8

- Self-Management: Students manage complex feelings when learning about injured, neglected, or endangered animals.
- Social Awareness: Engage with diverse animal rescue partners from different cultures to understand global compassion perspectives.

#### GRADES: 9-12

- Leadership & Ethical Thinking: Teens lead advocacy projects, from video essays to social media campaigns, using real animal stories to inspire action.
- Civic Engagement: Students take part in discussions about environmental justice, ethics, and community responsibility, aligning with California's SEL guidance on civic and social learning.