

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

COLORADO 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 Colorado 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: SC.K.2.1, SC.1.2.1)

Benchmark: Recognize patterns and basic needs of organisms. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students use livestream cameras to observe real-time animal behavior and identify patterns, such as sleeping, eating, and social interactions.
- Compassion Education encourages students to build models (drawings or manipulatives) to show how animals meet their basic needs for survival: food, water, air, and shelter.
- Students begin understanding their role as stewards of nature, reflecting on ways they can help animals live safely and happily.

GRADES: 3-5 (Standards: SC.3.2.1, SC.4.2.2)

Benchmark: Explain adaptations and impacts of environmental change. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students explore how animals adapt to environmental pressures, including injury or habitat loss, by watching rescue stories unfold in real time.
- They build food webs and animal interaction maps based on what they observe on-screen from different sanctuaries.
- Students discuss the effects of pollution or land development on animal habitats and explore how rescue centers intervene to help.

GRADES: 6-8 (Standards: SC.MS.2.3, SC.MS.3.5)

Benchmark: Evaluate ecosystems and model environmental solutions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students examine interdependence in ecosystems and how one species' decline affects others, using sanctuary livestreams and case studies.
- Learners are prompted to evaluate real-world problems like urban encroachment or water scarcity, and propose evidence-based solutions.
- They develop system models and use data from global rescue partners to explore how humans impact animal life and how we can improve outcomes.

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

Benchmark: Analyze biodiversity, sustainability, and environmental ethics. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students construct data-supported arguments about sustainability using footage from rescue sanctuaries, recovery timelines, and global trends.
- Learners are challenged to develop solutions or campaigns that address biodiversity loss and species protection, combining civic education and biology.
- Students research, write, and present findings in interdisciplinary capstone projects, aligned with Colorado's emphasis on real-world inquiry.

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GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Students express how they feel while watching animal rescues (sad, happy, worried), helping them build emotional vocabulary.
- Social Awareness: Young learners understand how animals rely on human care and how acts of kindness make a difference.

GRADES: 3-5

- Responsible Decision-Making: Students reflect on their role in protecting animals (e.g., not littering, caring for pets).
- Relationship Skills: Through small projects or presentations, students practice empathy and collaboration.

GRADES: 6-8

- Self-Management: Students learn to regulate strong feelings when encountering emotional rescue stories or footage.
- Social Awareness: Exposure to international rescue content helps students build cultural awareness and respect for global differences in animal care.

GRADES: 9-12

- Civic Engagement & Leadership: Teens take part in school-wide campaigns or design digital content advocating for animals and conservation.
- Ethical Reasoning: Students examine complex topics like factory farming, invasive species, or rewilding efforts, applying empathy and research to form educated opinions.