

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

CONNECTICUT 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 Connecticut 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: Understand basic needs and environmental interactions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Young learners use livestream footage to identify how animals meet basic survival needs (e.g., food, water, protection).
- Educators guide students in recognizing patterns in animal behavior and modeling simple habitats using drawings or manipulatives.
- These activities reinforce the concept that animals, like people, depend on their environments, and that humans play a role in either helping or harming them.

GRADES: 3-5 (Standards: 3-LS4-3, 4-ESS3-1, 5-LS2-1)

Benchmark: Model ecosystems and explain environmental change. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students observe animals in different habitats, comparing forest, desert, marine, and farm sanctuaries, and build models of food chains and ecosystems.
- Learners study how human activities (deforestation, pollution, etc.) impact animals, and how rescue centers play a role in restoring safety and balance.
- By analyzing real animal cases, students practice evidence-based reasoning and ethical decision-making grounded in science.

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

Benchmark: Analyze human impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Through sanctuary livestreams and curated content, students witness biodiversity in action and explore what happens when ecosystems are disrupted.
- They discuss ethical conservation solutions, such as rehabilitation, relocation, or habitat restoration, and create proposals for addressing real-world animal issues.
- Emphasis is placed on systems thinking, cause-and-effect, and using media as a scientific communication tool.

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

Benchmark: Evaluate sustainability and apply scientific reasoning. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students complete interdisciplinary projects using real-world animal rescue footage and data to research threats to biodiversity.
- Activities include evaluating policies, developing persuasive arguments, and designing sustainability-based campaigns or presentations.
- Students practice civic leadership, advocacy, and scientific argumentation, aligning with Connecticut's college and career readiness outcomes.

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GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Students express feelings in response to animal stories and reflect on empathy in classroom discussions.
- Social Awareness: Learners understand how kindness and human care improve animal wellbeing and safety.

GRADES: 3-5

- Responsible Decision-Making: Students explore how daily decisions (e.g., recycling, respecting nature) connect to animal health and safety.
- Relationship Skills: Classmates collaborate on group projects (rescue posters, kindness journals) promoting empathy and teamwork.

GRADES: 6-8

- Self-Management: Students navigate emotional reactions to difficult animal situations and practice respectful sharing.
- Social Awareness: Exposure to diverse animal care practices helps learners understand multiple cultural and ethical perspectives.

GRADES: 9-12

- Civic Engagement & Leadership: High school students lead advocacy projects, combining scientific, ethical, and emotional reasoning to create meaningful action.
- Ethical Reasoning: Teens engage in structured debates and multimedia campaigns about animal rights, environmental responsibility, and compassionate leadership.