

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

DELAWARE 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 Delaware 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: Recognize patterns and understand animals' basic needs. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students observe animals live and identify behaviors like eating, sleeping, and interacting with others.
- Using sanctuary livestreams, students learn to model what animals need to survive, including air, water, food, and shelter.
- Class discussions foster early environmental responsibility by exploring how people help or harm animals through their actions.

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

Benchmark: Understand environmental change and model ecosystems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students study animal adaptations in the wild and in sanctuaries, using real-world footage to understand survival strategies.
- Learners identify how human impact (pollution, habitat destruction) affects animals and propose ways to help.
- By modeling food webs and analyzing footage, students explore cause-and-effect within local and global ecosystems.

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

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

- Students analyze rescue case studies and ecosystem data to understand population dynamics, biodiversity, and ethical dilemmas.
- They evaluate proposed solutions to environmental issues—such as wildlife corridors, eco-friendly farming, or urban planning.
- Learners are challenged to present evidence-based arguments and model interdependence within ecosystems.

GRADES: 9–12 (Standards: HS-ESS3-3, HS-ESS3-4, HS-LS2-7)

Benchmark: Develop sustainable solutions and apply systems thinking. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students complete cross-disciplinary projects, combining biology, ethics, media literacy, and conservation.
- Learners use sanctuary footage and rescue data to design sustainable campaigns, evaluate current policy, or propose innovations in animal protection.
- Students also lead science- and compassion-based initiatives, from essays to action plans, that integrate multiple STEM disciplines.

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GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Students describe how they feel when watching animals in need or recovery.
- Social Awareness: Learners develop early empathy through guided conversations about animal kindness and care.

GRADES: 3-5

- Responsible Decision-Making: Students reflect on the impact of daily actions (e.g., trash disposal, kindness to pets).
- Relationship Skills: Learners work together to create posters, kindness videos, or sanctuary projects that promote compassion.

GRADES: 6-8

- Self-Management: Students manage emotional reactions to real animal stories and engage in reflective writing or dialogue.
- Social Awareness: They explore how animal rescue and welfare are understood across different cultures and contexts.

GRADES: 9-12

- Civic Leadership: Students initiate and lead awareness campaigns related to conservation, sustainability, or animal rights.
- Ethical Reasoning: Teens debate complex topics, such as captive wildlife, habitat loss, or climate migration, through an SEL and scientific lens.