

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



## Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

### IDAHO 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 Idaho 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: LS1.A, ESS3.A, ETS1.A)

Benchmark: Explore needs of living things and human impact on the environment. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students watch animals in rescue settings and identify survival needs like food, water, and shelter.
- Educators guide students in building simple models of animal habitats, discussing how human intervention can support or harm ecosystems.
- Learners begin to understand cause-and-effect relationships and develop empathy toward animals and nature.

##### GRADES: 3–5 (Standards: LS2.A, LS4.D, ESS3.C)

Benchmark: Understand interdependence in ecosystems and impacts of environmental change. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students analyze live and recorded animal behavior to model food chains and predator-prey interactions.
- Class discussions explore human effects on ecosystems and how sanctuaries serve as a response to those impacts.
- Students propose engineering solutions (e.g., better enclosures, enrichment tools, or pollution-reduction ideas) to support animal wellbeing.

##### GRADES: 6–8 (Standards: LS2.C, ESS3.A, ETS1.B)

Benchmark: Evaluate resource limitations, human impact, and solutions for sustainability. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students examine population changes and species endangerment using Compassion Education's rescue data and sanctuary footage.
- Real-world livestreams fuel project-based learning focused on sustainability, biodiversity, and ethical design.
- Students engage in STEM-aligned design challenges, creating plans to protect animals or preserve habitats based on Idaho's environmental priorities.

##### GRADES: 9–12 (Standards: LS4.C, ESS3.D, ETS1.C)

Benchmark: Use evidence to evaluate global challenges and develop scientific models for solutions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students use real-world case studies from animal sanctuaries to investigate ecological disruptions and recovery strategies.
- Students apply scientific reasoning to propose data-driven, compassionate environmental action, from habitat restoration to advocacy for policy changes.
- Projects support cross-disciplinary skills, from digital storytelling to conservation ethics and public speaking.

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#### GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Students express their feelings when watching animal rescues and learn to identify compassion.
- Social Awareness: Through class discussions, students explore what it means to care for others and show kindness.

#### GRADES: 3-5

- Responsible Decision-Making: Learners make connections between their actions and the wellbeing of animals and the planet.
- Relationship Skills: Students work in pairs or groups on kindness-based class projects, fostering listening, respect, and empathy.

#### GRADES: 6-8

- Self-Management: Middle school students practice managing emotions when exposed to intense or sensitive content related to animal mistreatment or environmental loss.
- Social Awareness: Exposure to global rescues builds cultural sensitivity and a deeper understanding of justice and care.

#### GRADES: 9-12

- Leadership & Advocacy: Students lead community service, digital campaigns, and presentations based on rescue themes and environmental ethics.
- Ethical Reasoning: High school students debate complex topics around animal rights, ecosystems, and human responsibility, developing strong civic voice.