

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

ILLINOIS 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 Illinois 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, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1)

Benchmark: Understand the needs of living organisms and their relationship to the environment. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students observe rescued animals and their caregivers via livestream and identify what animals need to survive.
- Lessons highlight how sanctuaries meet animals' physical needs while restoring their natural behaviors.
- Students model basic habitats and explore how kindness and care help animals thrive.

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

Benchmark: Investigate ecosystems, human impact, and conservation solutions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students use livestreams to analyze food webs and energy flow in real-time.
- Learners evaluate human threats to ecosystems (pollution, habitat destruction) and how rescue efforts can reduce these impacts.
- Projects include creating persuasive media or science posters that promote environmental awareness.

GRADES: 6–8 (Standards: MS-LS2-4, MS-ESS3-3, MS-ETS1-1)

Benchmark: Analyze human impact on ecosystems and propose solutions through engineering. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students evaluate sanctuary rescue data to understand biodiversity and population recovery.
- Learners develop engineering-based solutions (e.g., eco-habitats or wildlife corridors) and explain the reasoning behind them.
- Class discussions incorporate compassion, ethics, and science-based decision-making.

GRADES: 9–12 (Standards: HS-LS2-7, HS-ESS3-4, HS-ETS1-2)

Benchmark: Research sustainability challenges and design ethical, scientific solutions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students analyze rescue cases using data, media, and firsthand footage to model ecosystem relationships and disruption.
- Learners develop and present advocacy campaigns, PSAs, and policy proposals around topics like poaching, wildlife rehabilitation, or deforestation.
- The program reinforces STEM practices, ethical leadership, and systems thinking.

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GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness & Social Awareness: Children describe how they feel when seeing animals in care, learning to identify and name emotions.
- Relationship Skills: Roleplay and reflection exercises build respect and kindness.

GRADES: 3-5

- Responsible Decision-Making: Students reflect on ways they can protect animals, support rescues, and make environmentally friendly choices.
- Collaboration: Learners work together to create posters, media messages, or classroom service projects.

GRADES: 6-8

- Ethical Reasoning: Students explore difficult rescue cases and practice making decisions based on compassion and scientific understanding.
- Global Empathy: Exposure to sanctuaries worldwide helps students connect emotionally to diverse cultures and ecosystems.

GRADES: 9-12

- Civic Engagement: Teens use science, empathy, and media to lead campaigns that inform others and inspire real change.
- Leadership: Compassion Education prepares students to speak, write, and advocate confidently on behalf of animals and the environment.