

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

IOWA 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 Iowa 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: Observe and describe living organisms and their basic needs and interactions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students use sanctuary livestreams to observe animals and identify needs like food, water, and shelter.
- Teachers guide students in modeling simple habitats and discussing the role of humans in conservation.
- Activities foster foundational understanding of life science, responsibility, and kindness.

GRADES: 3–5 (Standards: 3-LS4-3, 4-ESS3-1, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1)

Benchmark: Model energy flow in ecosystems and explore human impact on the environment. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students analyze how animal sanctuaries mimic natural ecosystems, using livestreams as real-time examples.
- Lessons include food web construction, conservation research, and ecosystem comparison.
- Students create PSAs or digital media advocating for rescue, environmental care, or sustainable practices.

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

Benchmark: Evaluate human-caused environmental changes and design solutions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students engage in problem-based learning inspired by rescue stories from around the world.
- They apply systems thinking to analyze biodiversity loss, human impact, and ethical conservation responses.
- Compassion Education encourages project-based STEM integration, including presentations, data analysis, and peer-reviewed models.

GRADES: 9–12 (Standards: HS-LS2-7, HS-ESS3-4, HS-ETS1-3)

Benchmark: Use scientific reasoning to propose ethical, sustainable solutions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students explore real rescue footage, analyze case data, and present scientific models for ecosystem rehabilitation.
- Students research local and global conservation strategies, supported by evidence and emotional engagement.
- Learners create cross-curricular solutions combining science, writing, and public advocacy.

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GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Students describe how they feel when watching animal rescues and share thoughts about kindness.
- Relationship Skills: Learners build connections through classroom storytelling and animal-themed collaborative play.

GRADES: 3-5

- Social Awareness: Students recognize different perspectives and practice compassion for animals and humans alike.
- Responsible Decision-Making: Learners examine choices in caring for pets, reducing waste, and supporting wildlife.

GRADES: 6-8

- Self-Management: Students practice handling their emotional responses to challenging content (e.g., injury, abandonment).
- Ethical Thinking: Discussions encourage analysis of dilemmas and promote perspective-taking around environmental justice.

GRADES: 9-12

- Civic Engagement: High school students lead school-based initiatives and present on issues of animal rights and conservation.
- Empathy & Leadership: Students grow in their capacity to lead with care, applying science and ethics to real-world challenges.