

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

KANSAS 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 Kansas 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, 2-LS4-1)

Benchmark: Recognize that all living things have needs and that humans impact those needs. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students use sanctuary livestreams to identify animals' survival needs and emotional well-being.
- Activities like building habitats or drawing food webs help students understand basic biological concepts.
- Discussions about kindness and care support systems thinking and scientific observation.

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

Benchmark: Evaluate human impact on the environment and model interdependent relationships. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Learners analyze ecosystems via footage of animals in naturalistic rescue environments.
- They assess how human actions influence the natural world and propose science-informed conservation solutions.
- Media-based projects (e.g., posters, presentations) promote deeper understanding of life science and ecology.

GRADES: 6-8 (Standards: MS-LS2-4, MS-ESS3-3, MS-ETS1-2)

Benchmark: Analyze evidence of ecosystem disruption and design ethical, sustainable solutions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students evaluate animal rescue data to track species recovery, population trends, and environmental impacts.
- Learners collaborate on STEM design challenges to address real problems like pollution or loss of biodiversity.
- Content integrates scientific modeling, collaborative thinking, and compassionate inquiry.

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

Benchmark: Develop models to analyze and mitigate human impact on Earth systems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students investigate global rescue cases and environmental recovery efforts.
- Students engage in research, advocacy, and presentation projects to propose conservation or policy solutions.
- Compassion Education fosters science literacy, ethical leadership, and career readiness.

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GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness & Social Awareness: Students express feelings and learn to empathize with animals and others.
- Relationship Skills: Storytelling, group activities, and animal care themes promote kindness and shared responsibility.

GRADES: 3-5

- Responsible Decision-Making: Learners evaluate how their actions affect animals, their community, and the environment.
- Ethical Reflection: Students participate in roleplay and collaborative discussions on what it means to show compassion.

GRADES: 6-8

- Empathy & Perspective-Taking: Students explore complex situations and build emotional intelligence through ethical dilemmas.
- Global Citizenship: Viewing footage from international sanctuaries helps students recognize shared responsibility across cultures.

GRADES: 9-12

- Civic Leadership: Teens lead advocacy projects, public service announcements, or school campaigns on issues they care about.
- Ethical Reasoning: SEL is integrated with science and media, helping students consider values, data, and compassion in decision-making.