

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



## Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

### MAINE 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 Maine 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: Identify what living things need and how people influence their environments. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students observe real-time animal care scenarios to discuss the needs of animals (shelter, food, water, social interaction).
- Activities like habitat drawing and simple food chain building help learners connect science to compassion.
- Emphasis is placed on human responsibility for protecting living things.

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

Benchmark: Analyze how animals and environments interact and how human actions affect ecosystems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students examine sanctuary operations and rescue footage to understand animal recovery and habitat restoration.
- Projects may include designing rescue posters, researching endangered species, or simulating food webs.
- Teachers support students in exploring how science can solve problems compassionately.

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

Benchmark: Investigate environmental impact and propose solutions through scientific practices. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students explore topics like climate change, biodiversity loss, and animal welfare through global livestreams and rescue stories.
- Compassion Education provides context for engineering solutions such as habitat restoration, outreach education, or pollution reduction.
- Emphasis on authentic inquiry and civic responsibility in science.

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

Benchmark: Evaluate sustainability and develop science-informed, ethical action plans. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students use data and case studies from partner sanctuaries to develop multimedia campaigns or position papers.
- Focus on scientific communication, ethics in conservation, and STEM careers related to animal and environmental science.
- Activities foster college, career, and citizenship readiness.

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#### GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Students express emotions tied to animal rescue footage and practice gratitude and kindness.
- Social Awareness: Students participate in compassion-based classroom discussions and reflection.

#### GRADES: 3-5

- Responsible Decision-Making: Learners engage in decision-making through class projects related to animal care and planet protection.
- Relationship Skills: Group learning helps foster empathy, inclusion, and conflict resolution.

#### GRADES: 6-8

- Ethical Thinking & Empathy: Middle school students reflect on complex global dilemmas like deforestation or abandonment.
- Personal Growth: Journal writing and discussion build self-reflection and a growth mindset.

#### GRADES: 9-12

- Civic and Global Leadership: Students lead advocacy efforts, create public service media, or present to school boards.
- Compassion in Action: Teens connect academic learning to meaningful, real-world compassionate acts.