

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

MONTANA 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 Montana 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: Observe patterns in nature, animal needs, and human impact on the environment. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students observe real-time rescue environments to understand survival needs.
- Lessons integrate kindness, animal care, and early scientific observation.
- Art, story-based reflections, and class discussions foster inquiry and compassion.

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

Benchmark: Explore food webs, environmental change, and community impact. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students explore sanctuary operations to understand how humans affect animal habitats.
- Projects include analyzing ecosystems and developing simple conservation models.
- Learners connect Montana's rich biodiversity with global stories of rescue and care.

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

Benchmark: Model environmental systems and propose solutions to human-caused problems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students explore conservation challenges using sanctuary data and real-world livestreams.
- Classrooms develop and communicate innovative, ethical solutions.
- Activities align with Montana's emphasis on environmental ethics and systems-based inquiry.

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

Benchmark: Design and evaluate sustainability strategies. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students analyze rescue organizations as living case studies of ecological response.
- Students conduct cross-disciplinary research on animal welfare and climate action.
- Compassion Education supports future-ready students with leadership, ethics, and scientific reasoning.

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GRADES: K-2

- Self-Awareness: Young learners reflect on what it feels like to help or be helped.
- Social Awareness: Children grow empathy by caring about animals and their stories.

GRADES: 3-5

- Ethical Thinking: Students make choices during projects that reflect kindness and impact.
- Team Skills: Activities reinforce fairness, listening, and shared responsibility.

GRADES: 6-8

- Purpose and Belonging: Middle school students learn how their values connect to the world.
- Emotional Regulation: Students reflect on complex feelings and consider different perspectives.

GRADES: 9-12

- Compassionate Leadership: Teens take informed action through campaigns and presentations.
- SEL in Application: Students use emotional intelligence to advocate for animals, ecosystems, and justice.