Compassion Education: CONNECT & INSPIRE

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue

Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

SOUTH DAKOTA 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 South Dakota 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, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1)

Benchmark: Describe patterns and needs of living things and how they survive in their environments. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Livestreams show animals receiving shelter, care, and food in sanctuaries.
- Students make real-world observations of animal behavior and habitats.
- Drawing and writing assignments link curiosity with empathy.

GRADES: 3–5 (Standards: 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1)

Benchmark: Understand structures of living organisms, energy flow, and ecosystem relationships. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students examine how sanctuaries meet the needs of animals with unique adaptations.
- Lessons promote ethical decision-making alongside scientific concepts.
- Projects help students connect human impact to ecosystem health.

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

Benchmark: Evaluate population dynamics, environmental challenges, and solutions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Case studies explore the consequences of pollution, habitat loss, and rescue missions.
- Learners engage in research-driven conservation design projects.
- Compassion Education promotes interdisciplinary learning and compassionate reasoning.

GRADES: 9–12 (Standards: HS-LS2-6, HS-ESS3-4, HS-ETS1-3)

Benchmark: Apply systems thinking and evaluate solutions to complex real-world problems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Teens explore technological and environmental strategies used by global sanctuaries.
- Students build advocacy campaigns grounded in scientific understanding and empathy.
- Program prepares learners for careers in science, conservation, and humanitarian leadership.

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GRADES: K–2

- Empathy: Children connect with animal stories to understand emotions and kindness.

- Self-Awareness: Livestream experiences help develop emotional vocabulary and care skills.

GRADES: 3–5

- Social Responsibility: Students engage in conversations about protecting others (animals and people).

- Collaboration: Group work promotes respect, teamwork, and critical thinking.

GRADES: 6–8

- Purpose and Identity: Learners reflect on how compassion relates to their values and future.

- Community Impact: Projects encourage leadership and positive peer influence.

GRADES: 9–12

- Civic Engagement: Teens design community action plans tied to conservation and compassion.

- Global Perspective: Lessons build emotional maturity and ethical advocacy.