

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

Presented by ReelTime Animal Rescue



## Transforming K-12 Classrooms with Compassion and Leadership

### VIRGINIA 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 Virginia 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.6, 1.5, 2.5, 2.7)

Benchmark: Explore life needs of animals and plants and human-environment interactions. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students observe animals at rescues receiving care that fulfills basic life needs.
- Lessons focus on empathy, comparison of habitats, and caring behaviors.
- Classrooms engage in storytelling, drawing, and habitat journaling.

##### GRADES: 3-5 (Standards: 3.4, 3.5, 4.5, 5.5)

Benchmark: Examine ecosystems, food chains, adaptations, and behavioral traits. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Students investigate real-time animal interactions and environmental adaptation.
- Live sanctuary footage provides case studies of cause-effect relationships.
- STEM activities include diagramming food chains and proposing care-based solutions.

##### GRADES: 6-8 (Standards: LS.5, LS.6, LS.10, PS.1)

Benchmark: Understand interdependence, environmental cycles, and ethical innovation. Compassion Education Alignment:

- Learners evaluate biodiversity and ecological systems through livestream observation.
- Projects incorporate design of humane interventions and sustainability campaigns.
- Students build critical thinking around human and nonhuman impacts on nature.

##### GRADES: 9-12 (Standards: BIO.6, BIO.8, ENV.1-4, PHYS.3)

Benchmark: Apply scientific principles to biological and ecological systems. Compassion Education Alignment:

- High school students explore the ethical dimensions of animal conservation.
- Students gather data, evaluate systems thinking, and lead community-informed action.
- Projects foster cross-disciplinary exploration and science-based advocacy.

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#### GRADES: K-2

- Empathy in Action: Learners identify feelings in animals and themselves.
- Self-Regulation: Students practice mindfulness and compassion in classroom interactions.

#### GRADES: 3-5

- Social Responsibility: Lessons encourage care, respect, and global citizenship.
- Teamwork: Collaborative activities promote listening and shared goals.

#### GRADES: 6-8

- Identity and Purpose: Learners reflect on values and choices in response to rescue stories.
- Ethical Debate: Structured discussion builds courage, perspective, and clarity.

#### GRADES: 9-12

- Civic Leadership: Students become change agents in conservation and advocacy.
- Agency & Resilience: SEL supports personal growth through community problem-solving.