TITLE 10 PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
CHAPTER 28 LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING
PART 4 REGIONAL SATELLITE ACADEMIES

10.28.4.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council, 4491 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507.
[10.28.4.1 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.2 SCOPE: All law enforcement agencies and any other entities that operate a police academy or public safety telecommunicator academy in New Mexico. The scope of these rules also includes all training conducted by the academy.
[10.28.4.2 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Paragraph 1 of Subsection E of Section 29-7-4 NMSA 1978
[10.28.4.3 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.4 DURATION: Permanent
[10.28.4.4 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: November 3, 2026, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[10.28.4.5 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.6 OBJECTIVE: The purpose of Part 4 is to establish procedures for the implementation of a satellite academy program, also known as a regional satellite law enforcement training facility; to define the required content for such programs and to implement evaluation procedures to be utilized by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council.
[10.28.4.6 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.7 DEFINITIONS: [Reserved]
[10.28.4.7 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.8 APPLICATION AND APPROVAL:

A. The New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council shall determine the maximum number of satellite academies that may be certified at any given time.

B. The academy shall conduct an administrative assessment to evaluate any proposal for a new regional satellite academy. The academy's formal accreditation process for a new regional satellite academy shall include an assessment of the proposed new regional satellite academy's ability to administer, manage, and sustain a training program that meets or exceeds the minimum training standards established by the council.

C. When the academy determines that the proposed new regional satellite academy's facilities, instructors, program management, and curriculum meet or exceed the standards and expectations established by the council, the director or designee shall present the proposal to the council for a vote to approve or deny the creation of a new regional satellite academy. The New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council shall evaluate the impact and need for an additional academy prior to approving a new regional satellite academy.

D. A council-approved satellite academy may not be sold, purchased, or transferred without council approval.

E. These procedures must be adhered to by all basic law enforcement, certification by waiver, and public safety telecommunicator academies for the training program to be approved for accreditation in accordance with the Law Enforcement Training Act.
[10.28.4.8 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.9 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

A. A satellite academy must undergo an accreditation process to ensure that the facilities, instructors, program management, and curriculum meet or exceed the standards and expectations established by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council.

B. Initial accreditation will involve a detailed review to ensure that the satellite academy is equipped with the requisite facilities, staffing, infrastructure, and resources to operate a program that is comparable to the academy.

C. An accredited satellite academy will renew its accreditation every three years. A renewal will automatically be processed by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council, provided the academy has delivered at least three basic training programs during the previous three calendar years. If an academy has not done so, the director will review the academy's status and performance and make a recommendation to the Council for re-accreditation. The director will publish a compliance manual for satellite academy accreditation.

D. For basic law enforcement training and certification by waiver academies, comparable training facilities for the below-listed proficiency areas must be available or contracted for by the requesting agency or instructor and approved by the director.

(1) Comparable driving track facility;

(2) Comparable firearms range facility; and

(3) Comparable obstacle/agility course facility.

E. Upon receipt of this information, a thorough evaluation will be made, and notification will be sent to the agency or institution advising of the director's decision. If the program is not accredited, the agency or institution will be notified, and recommendations will be provided, advising them of the program's deficiencies. Once these deficiencies have been corrected, the program will be examined again, and a notification will be sent regarding the final disposition.

F. Once accreditation is granted, the agency or institution can conduct the program with the assurance that the program is comparable to or exceeds the minimum standards of training as established by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council.

G. There is no minimum or maximum number of students. However, an appropriate instructor-to-student ratio must be maintained. A low certification percentage, as determined by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council, may be grounds for non-renewal of academy accreditation.

H. The New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council will establish minimum guidelines for instructor and student conduct.

[10.28.4.9 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.10 PROGRAM REPORTING:

A. At least 45 days prior to the start date of a basic law enforcement training program, basic public safety telecommunicator training program, certification-by-waiver program, police training program, or public safety telecommunicator and satellite academy directors shall submit the following information for review and accreditation:

(1) Start date and estimated graduation date,

(2) Class schedule,

(3) Accreditation worksheet,

(4) An electronic copy of any additional classes, including lesson plans and handouts, as well as supplemental curriculum not included in the basic law enforcement training program, basic public safety telecommunicator training program, or certification-by-waiver program authorized by the council. This submission does not need to include the standard curriculum established by the council, only what will be taught beyond that standard curriculum.

(5) List of credentialed instructors and their assigned classes. Specialized high-risk topics that must be taught by instructors who are credentialed to teach those specialized topics. If a specialized instructor is required for a particular class, that specialized instructor must supervise any credentialed general instructors who assist in teaching that class.

B. No less than two weeks prior to the start date, a Roster of students' full names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, phone number, home address, email, and agency, and the complete application package for each student, including any required physical fitness assessment, psychological testing reports, and medical examination reports, shall be submitted to the academy, giving the academy time to ensure that the application packet is complete for accurate record keeping, unless the academy grants an exception for a particular applicant.

C. There is no minimum or maximum number of students. However, an appropriate instructor-to-student ratio must be maintained.

D. The New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council will establish minimum guidelines for instructor and student conduct.

E. The New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council will determine which academies are authorized to conduct basic law enforcement training, certification by waiver of previous training, and public safety telecommunicator training programs.

[10.28.4.10 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.11 PROGRAM COMPLETION: Upon completion of the training program, the regional satellite academy must provide the following information to the director prior to administration of the law enforcement officer certification examination (LEOCE) or public safety telecommunicator certification examination (TCE).

A. Final student roster of graduating students, including any changes of address or other changes of personal status from what was originally submitted.

B. Final class schedule: with any changes to dates, times, and length of instruction;

C. Final list of instructors;

D. Test scores: Scores for each graded test, including any graded practical assessments, emergency vehicle operations scores, and firearms qualification scores, showing that the applicant met the standards for training as established by the council for the basic law enforcement training program, the basic public safety telecommunicator training program, or the certification by waiver program.

[10.28.4.11 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.12 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION (LEOCE)

A. Only students who graduate from the academy, an accredited regional satellite academy, or an accredited certification by waiver program will be eligible for the LEOCE.

(1) Students will be allowed two opportunities in which to pass the LEOCE within one year from the date of completion of the satellite program.

(2) Students who fail the exam two times must attend the academic portion of the certification by waiver of the previous training program prior to taking the exam a third time.

(3) Students who fail the test three times will be required to attend either the entire academy or an entire regional satellite academy again.

B. If a student does not secure a law enforcement position within one year from the date of passing the LEOCE, they will be required to attend an accredited certification-by-waiver program to obtain their certification.

C. Students who pass the LEOCE will be provided with a letter from the director with their test score.

D. The director shall submit an affidavit to the board attesting that the applicant graduated from the academy, an accredited regional satellite academy, or an accredited certification-by-waiver program; passed the LEOCE; and shall include any concerns the director has regarding whether the applicant meets the qualifications for certification under Section 29-7-6 NMSA 1978.

[10.28.4.12 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.4.13 PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A. The director or designee has the authority to visit the regional training program at any time to monitor and evaluate the training conducted to ensure that the program meets the established minimum standards of training.

B. The director or designee will investigate any reported information concerning the operation of the satellite academy and the delivery of training programs. At any time that information on program deficiency is verified, the director can request decertification of the satellite program through the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council.

(1) The decertification procedures will require a written report on program deficiencies to the director of the satellite program, allowing for correction of noted deficiencies.

(2) If the corrections are not made to the director’s satisfaction, decertification will be recommended to the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council.

(3) All efforts will be made by the director and the satellite program director to resolve program deficiencies prior to initiation of any decertification proceedings.

(4) The satellite program director may appear before the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council to defend against any program certification recommendations. Any decisions rendered by the council shall be final.

[10.28.4.13 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

History of 10.28.4 NMAC: [RESERVED]