



HRCJTA TB 2026-03

DATE: August 15, 2026

TO: Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy Member Agencies

FROM: Scott Barlow, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update to TB 2026-02: Achieving and Make-Ups for 60 Hour Mandate (BLE).

As summarized in TB-2026-02, the HRCJTA will comply with all new DCJS mandates for Basic Law Enforcement Training beginning January 1, 2027.

For the Basic L.E. class DCJS has updated all Performance Outcomes which become mandated January 1, 2027. Performance Outcomes 9.2.1 (9.2.1.1- 9.2.1.18) are related to an obstacle course (Work Performance Course), and Performance Outcome 9.1.1. reads "Engage in stand-alone physical exercise for a minimum of 60 hours, during academy time".

The HRCJTA has built this Work Performance Course at our new facility located at 12650 Patrick Henry Drive, N.N. It is encouraged that all L.E. agencies make all or part of this mandatory course a part of their respective hiring standards. All agencies are welcome to use the academy Work Performance Course to assist in preparing their recruits for this new mandatory training.

The HRCJTA will treat this Work Performance Course the same as any other practical exercise. The recruit will be allowed three attempts to pass this course, and a fourth attempt will be allowed at the specific request of the agency as defined by HRCJTA Policy #7- Academic Standards.

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The 60-hour mandate for physical training will require the Basic Law Enforcement (BLE) class to increase the total number of days in order to meet this mandate. Defensive Tactics, Firearms, and Practical Exercises **cannot** be counted towards the 60-hour total. These hours must be completed during academy time while the BLE is in session. If these hours are not met, the BLE student is not permitted to take the L.E. certification exam, nor has the BLE student met all DCJS mandates thus the student cannot graduate and become a certified L.E. officer.

Some obvious challenges need to be addressed:

Work Performance Course- If the BLE student does not pass the DCJS mandated Work Performance Course after three attempts (Four if the agency requests a fourth), the student will not graduate. They may come back to subsequent BLE academy class for the entire curriculum. This is the same as with any other practical exercise.

Engage in stand-alone physical exercise for a minimum of 60 hours, during academy time- The HRCJTA has built in well over 60 hours of physical training to all BLE curriculums for 2027 and on. The BLE student must be physically able and present to ensure they meet the 60-hour minimum. The HRCJTA expects that all agencies ensure their student does not take time off during the Basic Law Enforcement class. If time off is granted, it is very unlikely that the student will meet the 60 hour minimum. If the student does not meet the 60 hour minimum the student will not graduate. They may come back to subsequent BLE academy class for the entire curriculum.

The HRCJTA recognizes that on occasion the student may become ill or injured. To assist our member agencies, the HRCJTA has build in remediation days, and additional hours for those students whom legitimately are unable to meet the 60 hour minimum. This will involve overtime in some cases, and if the student is out ill or injured for an extended period of time it is recommended that the student be removed from the BLE class and sent to a subsequent class.

The 60 hour mandate is specific in that the hours must be done during an academy class, **it can not be completed by the individual agency during a post academy or FTO training.**

Please refer to DCJS compulsory minimum standards, Category 9- Wellness, for additional understanding of the required mandates for all basic students' certifications.