EL26 Essentials Series Policy

Westmoreland County Community College
Public Safety Training Center (PSTC)

Effective date: November 6, 2026
Responsible office: PSTC Director
Applies to: All PSTC-hosted and PSTC-sponsored offsite EL26 Essentials programs

1 Purpose and mandatory application

This policy establishes the required program components, delivery sequence, attendance standards, and completion requirements for:

- EL-26 Fireground Support Training
- EL-26 Firefighter I Training
- EL-26 Firefighter II Training

It applies at the PSTC and at every offsite location operating under PSTC sponsorship.

Effective November 6, 2026, for all Essentials series programs starting in January 1, 2027, that are not already scheduled, will follow this policy; no exceptions will be accepted. The PSTC will only offer the following EL26 Programs onsite & offsite:

- EL-26 Fireground Support Training – Extended
- EL-26 Firefighter I Training – Extended
- EL-26 Firefighter II Training - Extended

Lead instructors and host organizations will not omit, substitute, shorten, or reorder required components, except for the scheduling flexibility expressly stated in this policy.

2 Scheduling and administration

The lead instructor will submit a schedule identifying each required component, its instructional hours, delivery location, and sequence to PSTC before the program begins. The schedule will distinguish PSFA EL26 instructional hours from extended courses and optional examination preparation. Session numbers indicate sequence; the approved calendar will reflect weekend consolidation where permitted.

All instruction, prerequisites, skill evaluations, and live-fire activities will comply with applicable PSFA policies and procedures. A conflict with a PSFA requirement will be referred to the PSTC Director for resolution before the affected activity proceeds; an instructor will not independently waive either requirement.

3 Baseline vitals and student safety

Baseline vital signs will be obtained and documented during the first session of each extended program by appropriately qualified personnel. Screening will identify potential health risks, including elevated blood pressure, particularly before strenuous practical training or live fire.

Students with concerning findings will be directed to seek medical evaluation and treatment as indicated by a qualified healthcare provider. Participation restrictions, medical clearance, and emergency response will follow applicable PSTC and PSFA safety procedures. Baseline screening is not a diagnosis or a substitute for medical clearance. Health information will be handled confidentially.

4 Responsibility for compliance

The lead instructor will maintain component-specific attendance, skill evaluations, and completion records. PSTC will verify required documentation before issuing a completion certificate. Host organizations will support the approved schedule and required travel to PSTC for designated training.

EL26 Firefighter Support Training Extended

5 Required program sequence (Based on 4-hour sessions)

- Day 1 — Life Skills, 4 hours. Complete student registration, all required PSTC forms, and baseline vital-sign screening and referral as described in Section 3.
- Days 2/3 — Hazardous Materials Awareness (HMA), 8 hours, delivered in person.
  - The full 8-hour course may be completed in one day when scheduled on a weekend.
- Day 4 — Traffic Incident Management (TIM), delivered in person.
- Day 5 — American Heart Association (AHA) First Aid with Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR.
  - Day 4/5 classes may be completed in one day when scheduled on a weekend.
- Remaining sessions — PSFA EL26 Fireground Support curriculum, delivered for the hours and in the instructional sequence prescribed by PSFA.

The order of Life Skills, HMA, TIM, First Aid/BLS CPR, and the PSFA Fireground Support curriculum will remain unchanged.

6 Attendance and successful completion

To successfully complete EL-26 Fireground Support – Extended, each student will meet all of the following requirements:

- Attend at least 80% of the PSFA EL26 Fireground Support portion.
  - Absences will not exceed 20% of that portion's instructional hours.
- Complete all required skills and evaluations in accordance with PSFA policies and procedures.
  - The attendance allowance does not waive any required skill or evaluation.
- Complete the required extended components. Life Skills, HMA, TIM, First Aid/BLS CPR, and optional preparation hours will not be included in the EL26 attendance calculation or used to offset missed EL26 hours.
  - HMA requires 100% attendance; other extended courses require attendance and completion under their applicable course standards.
- Provide proof of completed HMA and TIM training.
- Provide current, acceptable First Aid and BLS credentials meeting applicable PSFA certification requirements.
- Provide proof of completion of FEMA IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700.

7 Optional preparation course

A 16-hour preparation course may be offered after completion of the PSFA program.

- It is an optional add-on and will not replace required instruction, remediate an attendance deficiency by itself, or substitute for required skills or credentials.

8 Completion record

The lead instructor will submit attendance records, skill and evaluation results, and copies of the required course-completion documents to PSTC. Outstanding requirements will be identified before the student is reported as successfully completing the extended program.

EL26 Firefighter I Training Extended

9 Required program sequence

- Day 1:
  - Complete class paperwork and baseline vital signs to identify potential high-risk individuals.
  - Begin PSFA instruction as scheduled by the lead instructor.
- Day 2 and subsequent sessions
  - Continue the 76-hour PSFA instructional block. The lead instructor will arrange lectures and associated instruction within applicable PSFA curriculum requirements.
- Hazardous Materials Operations — Complete HMO32, 32 hours.
  - The lead instructor may schedule HMO32 before the 76-hour block.
  - Both blocks will be completed before the following vehicle-fire session.
- Exam/Vehicle-fire session — Complete one 4-hour day or evening session addressing car and vehicle fires and additional skills determined by the lead instructor.
  - ***All students MUST have passed their written program exam before being permitted to take the Interior "Live Fire" portion of the program.***

After the preceding instruction, the following activities will occur in this order:

- First — 4 hours of Fire Dynamics using training boxes at PSTC.
  - Additional 4-hours may be utilized to offer FDF & FDST with the associated training props; in which case that will be scheduled on a weekend at the PSTC to properly utilize the props.
- Second — 4 hours of live fire addressing transitional attack and live-fire dynamics
  - Conducted under the PSFA Live Fire Policy.
- Last instructional day — An 8-hour burn day at PSTC
  - Conducted under the PSFA Live Fire Policy.

All live-fire activities, including any live-fire vehicle training, will follow applicable PSFA live-fire requirements. Required safety conditions and prerequisite skills will be verified before participation. A safety-related postponement will be rescheduled without waiving the activity or changing the required progression.

10 Attendance and successful completion

- Students will attend at least 80% of the PSFA EL26 Firefighter I portion; absences will not exceed 20% of that portion's instructional hours. Attendance will be calculated using the PSFA-designated EL26 hours on the approved schedule.
- Extended course and optional preparation hours will be tracked separately, excluded from the EL26 attendance calculation, and will not offset missed EL26 hours. Each additional component must be completed under its applicable course standards.
- Students will complete all required skills, evaluations, and live-fire activities under PSFA policies and procedures and provide proof of completed HMO32 training.
- No "Without Live Fire" completion certificate will be issued. A student who does not complete required live fire, including because of illness or a medical restriction, will not receive the EL26 Firefighter I completion certificate and will be required to retake the program.

12 Optional Flashover Class

An optional 8-hour flashover class may be scheduled.

- Should be prior to the optional prep class.
- No juniors are permitted, including 17-year-olds that were approved for ELFF1.

11 Optional preparation and certification distinction

An optional 16-hour preparation course may follow the PSFA program.

- It is an optional add-on and will not replace required instruction, remediate an attendance deficiency by itself, or substitute for required skills or credentials.

EL26 Firefighter Support Training Extended

Scheduling Worksheet

- Based on 4-hour sessions
- Total Hours = 68 + 16 (Exam Prep)
- Total Days = 17 + 4 (Exam Prep)

DAY	HOURS	SUBJECT	DATE
1	4	Life Skills	
2	4	HMA Day 1	
3	4	HMA DAY 2	
4	4	TIMS	
5	4	CPR/FA	
6	4		
7	4		
8	4		
9	4		
10	4		
11	4		
12	4		
13	4		
14	4		
15	4		
16	4		
17	4		
OPTIONAL PREP			
18	4		
19	4		
20	4		
21	4		

EL26 Firefighter 1 Training Extended

Scheduling Worksheet

- Based on 4-hour sessions
- Total Hours = 128 + 16 (Exam Prep), and/or additional 4 for FDF/FDST
- Total Days = 32 + 4 (Exam Prep), and/or additional 1 for FDF/FDST

DAY	HOURS	SUBJECT	DATE
1	4	ELFF1	
2	4	ELFF1	
3	4	ELFF1	
4	4	ELFF1	
5	4	ELFF1	
6	4	ELFF1	
7	4	ELFF1	
8	4	ELFF1	
9	4	ELFF1	
10	4	ELFF1	
11	4	ELFF1	
12	4	ELFF1	
13	4	ELFF1	
14	4	ELFF1	
15	4	ELFF1	
16	4	ELFF1	
17	4	ELFF1	
18	4	ELFF1	
19	4	ELFF1	
20	4	HMO	
21	4	HMO	
22	4	HMO	
23	4	HMO	
24	4	HMO	
25	4	HMO	
26	4	HMO	
27	4	HMO	

28	4	Vehicle Fire & Dumpster & ELFF1/Exam At the PSTC	
29	4	Fire Dynamics – Applications At the PSTC	
		Optional Fire Dynamics (with Day 29)	
30	4	Transitional Attacks / Fire Dynamics	
31	8	"Live Fire" Evolutions	
OPTIONAL PPEP			
32	4		
33	4		
34	4		
35	4		
OPTIONAL FLASHOVER PROGRAM			
36	8		

EL26 Firefighter 1 Training Extended

Scheduling Worksheet

- Based on 4-hour sessions
- Total Hours = 40 + 4 (Application Oversight)
- Total Days = 11

DAY	HOURS	SUBJECT	DATE
1	4	Application Night	
2	4	ELFF2	
3	4	ELFF2	
4	4	ELFF2	
5	4	ELFF2	
6	4	ELFF2	
7	4	ELFF2	
8	4	ELFF2	
9	4	ELFF2	
10	4	ELFF2	
11	4	ELFF2	