LEAP Program Overview

Cohort 9 | 2027–2028

A state-accredited alternative licensure program for new teachers across New Mexico, approved by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED).

Offered by CES in Albuquerque, LEAP supports aspiring educators through a dynamic pathway to certification. The program is available statewide with monthly in-person training in three regions — **Albuquerque, Artesia, and Las Cruces**. LEAP is designed to empower new teachers with the tools, coaching, and confidence they need to succeed and **grow** in the classroom — right from the start!

11	3	6	200
MONTHS · JULY–MAY	TRAINING REGIONS	LICENSURE PATHWAYS	EARLY-CAREER EDUCATORS

YOUR COHORT 9 JOURNEY

CES LEAP is an alternative teacher preparation program for full-time classroom teachers in their first year. Candidates are selected through an **application** and **interview** process.

JULY 15–17, 2027

Pre-Service

Required. Your induction to teaching kicks off the cohort in Albuquerque, Artesia, and Las Cruces.

AUGUST 2027 – MAY 2028

Intensive Months

Monthly professional development sessions alongside 200 early-career educators, monthly virtual Methods instructional sessions, and continued support from experienced instructional coaches.

JUNE 2028

LEAP Into Action

A conference in Albuquerque celebrating your completion.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN LEAP

Methods Sessions

Single license candidates attend one Methods Session per license per month; dual license candidates attend two. Sessions explicitly teach Elementary, Secondary and Special Education delivery and instructional strategies, tools, planning, resources and expectations.

Professional Development Sessions

All candidates attend a monthly full-day Saturday workshop in person in one of three regions: Albuquerque, Artesia, or Las Cruces.

1:1 Coaching

Candidates receive instructional coaching paired with classroom visits, feedback and guidance from their assigned coach from start to finish.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- ✔️ **Shortest alternative licensure program in New Mexico:** LEAP is 11 months, spanning July–May.
- ✔️ **Your own LEAP Coach:** every candidate is assigned a coach to guide them through the program, with monthly virtual 1:1 coaching.
- ✔️ **Earn while you learn:** 1 year toward ERB retirement is earned during the program; salary and benefits are equivalent to first-year teachers in New Mexico.
- ✔️ **Dual licensure:** choose Elementary & Special Education or Secondary & Special Education and finish with two licenses instead of one.
- ✔️ **Post-program supports paid by CES LEAP:** TESOL Endorsement and Bilingual Endorsement.
- ✔️ **Master's degree credit:** LEAP counts for half of a master's degree at Western New Mexico University or University of the Southwest. CES LEAP does not pay toward or for a master's degree.

Upon successful completion, *LEAP completers receive a Transcript and LEAP Certificate of Completion and are supported to apply for a Level 1A teaching license through NMPED.*

HOW TO APPLY FOR COHORT 9

Things to know: All candidates must secure a full-time K–12 **teacher-of-record** position. Part-time positions are accepted by LEAP Director approval only. Substitute teaching positions are not permitted. **Pre-Service is required:** July 15–17, 2027.

OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD
Nov. 16, 2026 – July 9, 2027
Application fee: **$100**

LATE HIRE APPLICATION PERIOD
July 10 – July 31, 2027
Application fee: **$250**

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
Get hired as a full-time teacher	Apply & upload all 5 documents	Interview with LEAP Coach	Receive Letter of Acceptance (LOA)	Apply to NMPED for Level 1A license

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

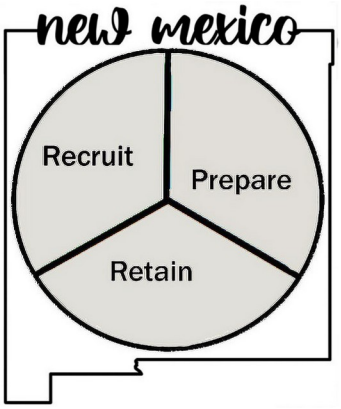
1. **Current Resume:** Your most recent positions plus any experience working with children.
2. **Two Letters of Recommendation:** From supervisors speaking to your professionalism, reliability, dispositions, ability to learn, and capacity to work effectively in a school setting with children. Letters must include the supervisor's name, email address, and phone number.
3. **Bachelor's Degree Transcripts:** Must show a conferred degree and a 2.5 GPA or higher.
   Secondary license candidates must verify that their transcripts show at least 24 credit hours of 300-level or higher courses in the intended endorsement area, or provide evidence of a passed Praxis content exam, prior to program entry.
   web.ped.nm.gov/bureaus/licensure/endorsements-how-to-add-a-license/
4. **Intent-to-Hire or Contract:** Provided by your employing school or district for the current school year.
5. **Canvas Application:** Load your application documents and complete your LEAP application.

TUITION COST PER CANDIDATE

Single License	**$4,000** $2,000 per semester
Dual License	**$5,000** $2,500 per semester
Books	**$200** price may vary
Travel & Accommodations For Professional Development sessions and the LEAP Into Action conference	**Varies**

PROGRAM LICENSURE PATHWAY OPTIONS (6)

1. **Elementary Education** K–8
2. **Secondary Education** 6–12
3. **Special Education** PreK–12
4. **Dual: Elementary & Special Education** K–8 & PreK–12
5. **Dual: Secondary & Special Education** 6–12 & PreK–12
6. **Special Education Capacity Pathway** For L2/L3 teachers adding licensure



** Candidates pursuing Level 1 licensure may select the Portfolio or Praxis assessment track.*

*** Candidates adding a license (such as Special Education) to one they already hold are exempt from the initial in-program portfolio, but they must complete an Action Research project.*

Application questions? Contact Misty Wade · mwade@ces.org · www.ces.org/ces-leap/