

Professional Transitions to the Public Schools: Initial ESA Certification

School Behavior Analyst, School Nurse, School Occupational Therapist, School Orientation and Mobility Specialist, School Physical Therapist, School Social Worker, School Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist Roles Only

Courses on this listing are approved by the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) for the roles indicated above. These approved courses satisfy the fifteen clock hours/one semester hour of course work required by [WAC 181-79A-224](#) for Initial Educational Staff Associate (ESA) certification purposes.

The approved courses prepare the candidate to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of school and special education laws and policies (national, state, and local) and their application to decision-making processes in the educational settings.
- Understand and demonstrate knowledge of working within the culture of the schools, creating an environment that fosters safety, health, and learning for the students.
- Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate resources in the school setting.
- Demonstrate knowledge of collaboration with team members which may include parents, teachers, administrators, and others to support learning outcomes for all students.
- Demonstrate knowledge of how to support the outcomes for all students through strategies such as scientific-based practices, collaborative teaming, and ethical decision making.
- Use professional standards to inform professional growth planning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the use of human, community, and technological resources.

Applicants who meet all requirements other than the ESA course may be issued a temporary permit valid for up to one calendar year. The permit allows the ESA to serve in the role within the P-12 public schools of Washington state. Additional information and approval dates of courses are available on the [PESB website](#) under "Professional transitions to public schools."

Educational Service District (ESD) Courses

Attention: Register early, as courses often fill up quickly. Attendees must register prior to the day of the course. Additional course options through Washington universities are listed on the second page.

ESD:	Dates:	Contact:
Puget Sound ESD 121 Renton, WA	3-Day Online Courses Spring 2025: May 2, 9, 16 Register via PdEnroller (Closes April 25 at 12 AM) Summer 2025: July 25, August 1, 8 Register via PdEnroller (Closes July 18 at 12 AM)	Jesse Blaire jblaire@psesd.org
Northeast Washington ESD 101 Spokane, WA	6-Week Online Course Spring 2025: April 14 – May 23 Register via PdEnroller (Closes March 31 at 5 PM) Summer 2025: June 16–July 25 Register via PdEnroller (Registration Window: April 28–June 2)	Nora Vralsted-Thomas nvralsted-thomas@esd101.net



University Courses

School Nurse Role:

Institution:	Course(s):	Contact:
Pacific Lutheran University Center for Continued Nursing Learning	Introduction to School Nursing	Ellen Wong ccnl@plu.edu 1-253-535-7027
University of Washington School of Nursing	Foundations for School Nursing (non-academic credit)	UW-Staff schoolnursing@uw.edu
Washington State University School of Nursing	School Nursing: Preparation for the Initial Certification	Aimee Nechanicky nursing.profdev@wsu.edu 1-509-324-7249

Various ESA Roles:

ESA Role:	Course(s):	Institution:
School Behavior Analyst	EDSPE 554: Behavior Analysts in Schools (<i>approved May 2021</i>)	University of Washington
School Occupational Therapist	OCTH 541: Technology for Enabling Occupations and OCTH 532/537: Occupational Performance in Children and Adolescents (<i>could be OCTH 541S, 532S/537S</i>) (<i>approved September 2022</i>)	Eastern Washington University
	Rehab 576: Occupational Therapy Theory and Practice in Pediatrics and Rehab 582: Assistive Technology in Rehabilitation (<i>both are required</i>)	University of Washington
School Physical Therapist	Rehab 502: Lifespan III, Pediatrics and Rehab 517: Professional Seminar Series (<i>both are required</i>) (<i>approved Fall of 2011</i>)	University of Washington
School Social Worker	SOWK 559: School Social Work and School Law	Eastern Washington University
	SOWK 587: Social Work in Schools (<i>approved November 2024</i>)	Heritage University
	TSOCW 542: Social Work in Schools	University of Washington-Tacoma
	SOCW 588: Social Work in Schools	University of Washington-Seattle
	Initial ESA Certification Course (<i>approved May 2024</i>)	UW SMART Center
School Speech Language Pathologist or Audiologist	COMD 405: SLP and Audiology in the Schools COMD 539: SLP or Audiology in Schools CMSD 550S: SLP and Audiology in the Schools COMD 599: Independent Study	Eastern Washington University
	SPHSC 550: Public School SLP and Audiology	University of Washington
	SHS 471 SHS 550 SHS 590	Washington State University
	CSD 580 plus CSD 553 or CSD 555 CSD 590: Educational Audiology	Western Washington University

Please note:

- Some courses are only available to program-enrolled students. Please contact the institution regarding availability.
- If you completed an approved university course, submit your official transcript for review.
- If you completed an approved ESD course, submit a copy of your certificate of attendance/completion.
- Documentation (**PDF only**) can be uploaded during the application process or email a PDF copy to cert@k12.wa.us after submitting your application.