

# 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:
<a href="#">Puget Sound ESD 121</a> Renton, WA	<b>3-Day Online Courses</b> <b>Fall 2025:</b> October 10, 17, 24 <b>Winter 2026:</b> January 9, 16, 23 <b>Spring 2026:</b> May 8, 15, 22 <i>Registration opens August 1, 2025</i>	<b>Jesse Blaire</b> <a href="mailto:jblaire@psed.org">jblaire@psed.org</a>
<a href="#">Northeast Washington ESD 101</a> Spokane, WA	<b>6-Week Online Course</b> <b>Summer 2025:</b> June 16 – July 25 Future dates to be determined Register via <a href="#">pdEnroller</a> <i>Registration closed June 6, 2025</i>	<b>Nora Vralsted-Thomas</b> <a href="mailto:nvralsted-thomas@esd101.net">nvralsted-thomas@esd101.net</a>



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

# University Courses

## School Nurse Role:

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

## Various ESA Roles:

ESA Role:	Course(s):	Institution:
<b>School Behavior Analyst</b>	<b>EDSPE 554:</b> Behavior Analysts in Schools	<b>University of Washington</b> <i>Approved May 2021</i>
<b>School Occupational Therapist</b>	<b>OCTH 541:</b> Technology for Enabling Occupations <i>and</i> <b>OCTH 532 or 537:</b> Occupational Performance in Children and Adolescents ( <i>could be OCTH 541S, 532S/537S</i> )	<b>Eastern Washington University</b> <i>Approved September 2022</i>
	<b>Rehab 576:</b> Occupational Therapy Theory and Practice in Pediatrics <i>and</i> <b>Rehab 582:</b> Assistive Technology in Rehabilitation	<b>University of Washington</b> <i>Both courses are required</i>
<b>School Physical Therapist</b>	<b>Rehab 502:</b> Lifespan III, Pediatrics <i>and</i> <b>Rehab 517:</b> Professional Seminar Series	<b>University of Washington</b> <i>Approved Fall of 2011</i> <i>Both courses are required</i>
<b>School Social Worker</b>	<b>SOWK 559:</b> School Social Work and School Law	<b>Eastern Washington University</b>
	<b>SOWK 587:</b> Social Work in Schools	<b>Heritage University</b> <i>Approved November 2024</i>
	<b>EDUC 967P:</b> Foundations of Public Education <i>and</i> <b>EDUC 967Q:</b> Child Abuse, Neglect & Reporting <i>and</i> <b>EDUC 967R:</b> School Social Work <i>and</i> <b>EDUC 967S:</b> SSW as Members Multidisciplinary Teams	<b>Pacific Lutheran University</b> <i>Approved May 2025</i> <i>All four courses are required</i>
	<b>TSOCW 542:</b> Social Work in Schools	<b>University of Washington-Tacoma</b>
	<b>SOCW 588:</b> Social Work in Schools	<b>University of Washington-Seattle</b>
	<b>Initial ESA Certification Course</b>	<b>UW SMART Center</b> <i>Approved May 2024</i>
	<b>SOWK 555: School Social Work</b>	<b>Walla Walla University</b> <i>Approved May 2025</i>
<b>School Speech Language Pathologist or Audiologist</b>	<b>COMD 405:</b> SLP and Audiology in the Schools <b>COMD 539:</b> SLP or Audiology in Schools <b>CMSD 550S:</b> SLP and Audiology in the Schools <b>COMD 599:</b> Independent Study (SLP or Audiologist)	<b>Eastern Washington University</b>
	<b>SPHSC 550:</b> Public School SLP and Audiology	<b>University of Washington</b>
	<b>SHS 471:</b> SLP and Audiology in Schools <b>SHS 550:</b> Clinical Preparation <b>SHS 590:</b> Special Topics in Ped Dysphagia and Feeding	<b>Washington State University</b>
	<b>CSD 580 plus CSD 553 or CSD 555</b> <b>CSD 590:</b> Educational Audiology	<b>Western Washington University</b>

### Please note:

- Courses must have been approved by the PESB at the time of completion.
- Some courses are only available to program-enrolled students; contact the institution for availability.
- Documentation of course completion (PDF only) can be uploaded during the application process or email a PDF copy to [cert@k12.wa.us](mailto:cert@k12.wa.us) after submitting your ESA certificate application.