

# Professional Transitions to the Public Schools: Initial ESA Certification

Courses on this listing are approved by the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) for the following roles.

- **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**

These approved courses satisfy the fifteen clock hours or one semester hour of course work required for Initial Educational Staff Associate (ESA) certification purposes. The approved courses prepare the candidate to meet the professional development outcomes outlined in [WAC 181-79A-224](#). Individuals may complete an approved course through the Educational Service District (ESD) or university.

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.”

## Please Note:

- ESD or university courses must have been approved by the PESB at the time of course completion.
- 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.

## 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.

### Puget Sound ESD 121-Renton, WA

Dates (3-Day Online Course)	Registration Information	Contact and Resources
<b>Fall 2025:</b> October 10, 17, 24	<a href="#">pdEnroller Registration-Event 187169</a> Registration closes Oct. 3, 2025	<b>Jesse Blaire</b> <a href="mailto:jblaire@psed.org">jblaire@psed.org</a> <a href="#">PSESD pdEnroller Catalog</a>
<b>Winter 2026:</b> January 9, 16, 23	<a href="#">pdEnroller Registration-Event 187199</a> Registration closes Jan. 2, 2026	
<b>Spring 2026:</b> May 8, 15, 22	<a href="#">pdEnroller Registration-Event 187201</a> Registration closes May 1, 2026	
<b>Summer 2026:</b> <i>Coming Soon</i>	<i>Dates To Be Determined</i>	

### Northeast Washington ESD 101-Spokane, WA

Dates (6-Week Online Course)	Registration Information	Contact and Resources
<b>Fall 2025:</b> October 13 – November 21	<a href="#">pdEnroller Registration-Even 190513</a> Registration closed Sept. 29, 2025	<b>Nora Vralsted-Thomas</b> <a href="mailto:nvralsted-thomas@esd101.net">nvralsted-thomas@esd101.net</a> <a href="#">PSESD pdEnroller Catalog</a>
<b>Winter 2026:</b> January 26-March 6	<i>Tentative Dates-Registration Coming Soon</i>	
<b>Spring 2026:</b> April 20-May 29	<i>Tentative Dates-Registration Coming Soon</i>	
<b>Summer 2026:</b> June 22-July 31	<i>Tentative Dates-Registration Coming Soon</i>	



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

# University Courses

## School Nurse

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

**Attention:** Some courses are only available to program-enrolled students; contact the institution for availability

School Behavior Analyst	
<b>University of Washington-Approved May 2021</b>	<b>EDSPE 554:</b> Behavior Analysts in Schools
School Occupational Therapist	
<b>Eastern Washington University-Approved September 2022</b> <i>Both courses are required</i>	<b>OCTH 541:</b> Technology for Enabling Occupations <b>and</b> <b>OCTH 532 or 537:</b> Occupational Performance in Children and Adolescents (could be OCTH541S, 532S, or 537S)
<b>University of Washington</b> <i>Both courses are required</i>	<b>Rehab 576:</b> Occupational Therapy Theory and Practice in Pediatrics <b>Rehab 582:</b> Assistive Technology in Rehabilitation
School Physical Therapist	
<b>University of Washington-Approved Fall 2011</b> <i>Both courses are required</i>	<b>Rehab 502:</b> Lifespan III, Pediatrics <b>and</b> <b>Rehab 517:</b> Prof Seminar Series
School Social Worker	
<b>Eastern Washington University</b>	<b>SOWK 559:</b> School Social Work and School Law
<b>Heritage University-Approved November 2024</b>	<b>SOWK 587:</b> Social Work in Schools
<b>Pacific Lutheran University-Approved May 2025</b> <i>All Courses listed are required</i>	<b>EDUC 967P:</b> Foundations of Public Education <b>and</b> <b>EDUC 967Q:</b> Child Abuse, Neglect & Reporting <b>and</b> <b>EDUC 967R:</b> School Social Work <b>and</b> <b>EDUC 967S:</b> SSW as Members Multidisciplinary Teams
<b>University of Washington-Tacoma</b>	<b>TSOCW 542:</b> Social Work in Schools
<b>University of Washington-Seattle</b>	<b>SOCW 588:</b> Social Work in Schools
<b>UW Smart Center-Approved May 2024</b>	<b>Initial ESA Certification Course</b>
<b>Walla Walla University-Approved May 2025</b>	<b>SOWK 555:</b> School Social Work
School Speech Language or Pathologist or Audiologist	
<b>Eastern Washington University</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>University of Washington</b>	<b>SPHSC 550:</b> Public School SLP and Audiology
<b>Washington State University</b>	<b>SHS 471/552:</b> SLP and Audiology in Schools <b>SHS 550:</b> Special Topics in Speech and Hearing Sci <b>SHS 590:</b> Special Topics in Speech and Hearing Sci
<b>Western Washington University</b>	<b>CSD 580 plus CSD 553 or CSD 555</b> <b>CSD 590:</b> Educational Audiology