

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 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
Spring 2026: May 8, 15, 22	pdEnroller Registration-Event 187201 Registration closes May 1, 2026	<p>Jesse Blaire jblaire@psesd.org PSESD pdEnroller Catalog</p>
Summer 2026: <i>Coming Soon</i>	<i>Dates To Be Determined</i>	
Fall 2026: <i>Coming Soon</i>	<i>Dates To Be Determined</i>	
Winter 2027: <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
Winter 2026: January 26-March 6	pdEnroller Registration-Event 196568 Registration closes Jan. 12, 2026	<p>Nora Vralsted-Thomas nvralsted-thomas@esd101.net PSESD pdEnroller Catalog</p>
Spring 2026: April 20-May 29	<i>Tentative Dates-Registration Coming Soon</i>	
Summer 2026: June 22-July 31	<i>Tentative Dates-Registration Coming Soon</i>	
Fall 2026: <i>Coming Soon</i>	<i>Dates To Be Determined</i>	



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

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

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