



# 2025 PSWCT/UP Education & Training Sessions

## STUDENT AGGRESSION AWARENESS SERIES

### WEBINAR

#### Prioritize Staff and Student Safety

**Thursday, January 23, 2025**  
**10:00 am – noon**

Learn how to transform your culture into one that is safe and comforting for both staff and students. When you prioritize safety, the benefits are endless – less staff and student injuries, more supportive environments, more time, money, and resources for your programs, and so much more!

**Speaker: Kim Sanders**, COO, Grafton Integrated Health Network

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### WEBINAR

#### Resilience in Difficult Situations: Part II

**Thursday, March 27, 2025**  
**10:00 am – noon**

This presentation is the continuation of December 12, 2024, Emotional Resilience training presented by Jaime Fajardo, Director, Student Support Services at Puget Sound Educational Service District. In the first installment, Jaime touched on self-care, burn out and encouraged the development of our own resiliency self-care toolkit. In this specific session, we will go into our toolkits to emotionally educate and support ourselves to be able to be fully present and support the students. We will be introducing and practicing mindfulness and validation strategies to show that we are present and can provide compassion and empathy to our students. We will be building up our emotional regulation, distress tolerance and interpersonal skills that enable us to deal with difficult situations as well as with the issues and times before and after the situation.

**Speaker: Jamie Fajardo**, Director of Student Support Services at Puget Sound Educational Service District. He has worked with youth for over 10 years primarily in the juvenile justice field, such as juvenile institutions and court-involved youth.

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### WEBINAR

#### Proactive Safety and Risk Management in Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs

**Thursday, February 13, 2025**  
**10:00 am – noon**

In CTE, safety is a major concern and must be prioritized. Failure to do so could result in costly retrofits, compliance issues, and potential student/teacher health risks. This presentation will provide an overview of the importance of integrating safety and risk management into the planning and development of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. Our presenters will review the risk management aspect of CTE education including hazard identification and treatment, preventive and corrective actions, self-inspections, strategies on implementing a centralized safety management system as well as real-life examples on how all of this was executed at a PSWCT/UP member school district.

**Speakers: Katie Keller** is the Assistant Director of Career and College Readiness at Bethel School District, one of the PSWCTUP member districts.

**Elizabeth Jakob**, PSWCTUP Environmental Health Consultant has worked with school EH&S for over two decades and serves all 34 member school districts.

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## WEBINAR

### PSWCT/UP Reasonable Assurance and Updates

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025**  
**10:00 am – noon**

This session is specifically targeted to school district staff who are responsible for unemployment compensation, such as those within human resources or payroll departments. Educational employees are not eligible for unemployment benefits during traditional break periods in situations where they have “reasonable assurance” that they will continue working after the break. Reasonable Assurance allows districts to hire guest employees to work during the school calendar, but not be financially responsible for compensation during breaks.

**Speaker: Leigh Ann Stalker**, Senior Unemployment Consultant and Legal Support

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## WEBINAR

### Wildfire Smoke Exposure Rule Application to Employees

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025**  
**10:00 am – noon**

During the last few years wildfire smoke exposure has increased in both frequency and intensity, presenting health risks to school employees. In December 2023, the WA State Labor and Industries (L&I) adopted permanent workplace safety and health rules to address exposures to PM2.5, the tiny particles in wildfire smoke. As these tiny particles get inhaled, they can reach the deepest parts of the lungs, and may increase the risk of reduced lung function, aggravated asthma, heart failure, and even early death. Our presenter, Chris Pyke, is an Industrial Hygiene Technical Specialist at L&I and their technical expert on wildfire smoke. He will provide information on how the regulations apply to schools and ways for districts to be prepared and implement a plan to protect employees, particularly those who require working outdoors.

**Speaker: Chris Pyke** is an industrial hygiene technical specialist with L&I's Division of Occupational Safety & Health. Chris specializes in protecting workers from exposure to airborne particulates such as asbestos, crystalline silica, and wildfire smoke. He earned his Master of Science in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences from the University of Washington.

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## WEBINAR

### Return-to-Work Program Updates

**Monday, June 30, 2025**  
**10:00 am – noon**

Christian Porter and Ben Hollar, Return-to-Work Managers, will provide an overview of the Return-to-Work Incentive Program, including significant changes to our application process based on feedback from our Member Districts.

**Speakers: Christian Porter** BA, CA, is a Return-to-Work Manager at PSWCT/UP. He has a BA degree in Political Science and WA State Claims Administration Certification. Christian has five years of hands-on experience serving the employees of Washington State as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and a former Claims Adjuster.

**Ben Hollar:** BA, CDMS, is a Return-to-Work Manager at PSWCT/UP. He has a BA degree in Social Sciences from Washington State University and is a Certified Disability Management Specialist. Ben has more than seven years of hands-on experience serving the employees of Washington State as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC).

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## WEBINAR

### Drinking Water Testing in Schools

**Wednesday, July 23, 2025**  
**10:00 am – noon**

Lead is a toxic substance that is harmful for our bodies and can possibly cause neuro damage, especially in children. We can be exposed to lead that leaches from the buildings' plumbing system into drinking water. There are multiple factors influencing the amount of lead in the water, and the only way to identify lead levels is by testing. In April 2021, the WA State Legislature passed HB 1139 requiring testing for lead in school drinking water and remediation when elevated levels are found.

To protect the health of school employees and students, and to support member school districts with legal compliance, we invited industry partners from WA State DOH and ESD 101. Theresa Sanders, Environmental Lead Exposure Prevention Supervisor in the Division of Environmental Public Health at Washington State Department of Health and Jerry Paige, Industrial Hygienist from ESD 101 in Spokane will review the interpretation of regulations, including requirements for the Department of Health, OSPI, and schools. Our presenters will provide implementation recommendations for a well-developed water quality monitoring program.

**Speakers: Jerry Page** works for the Northeast Washington Educational Service District 101 in Spokane in their Worker's Compensation Trusts' Safety Division. He has twenty years of safety-based employment, experience as an Industrial Hygienist, and is a certified Indoor Environmentalist.

**Theresa Sanders** is the supervisor for the Childhood Environmental Lead Exposure Prevention program in the Division of Environmental Public Health at the WA State DOH. Her background includes community-based prevention, prevention policy, data and assessment, health equity, and environmental microbiology.

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## WEBINAR

### Asbestos Programs in Schools

**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**  
**10:00 am – noon**

In response to the hazards of asbestos exposure in older buildings, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) in 1987. AHERA was developed specifically for schools and has a multitude of compliance requirements. This session offers information and support to district environmental health and safety contacts to ensure that they are well informed and properly manage this important program. Donna McNeal, President of NOW Environmental Services, will present a very useful overview on what AHERA is, what a district needs to have in place to be EPA compliant, and how districts can bring their AHERA program up to speed in the most expedient and cost-effective manner.

**Speaker: Donna McNeal's** 36 years of experience in industrial hygiene and environmental health and safety equips her to give uncomplicated advice on a vast array of regulatory issues including everything AHERA. Ms. McNeal has been one of the primary AHERA instructors in the State of Washington and is now a federally certified AHERA instructor.

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## WEBINAR

### Asbestos Awareness Two Hours Training

**Wednesday, September 24, 2025**  
**9:00 am – noon**

In response to asbestos exposure hazards in older buildings, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) in 1987. This AHERA initiative was developed specifically for schools and has a multitude of compliance requirements. This session is the “Two-Hour Asbestos Awareness Training Program” that will cover the requirements of WAC 296-62-0722 and EPA regulations regarding asbestos management for school district Operations and Maintenance Personnel. The session will focus on how to recognize asbestos, understand the effects of asbestos exposure, housekeeping requirements, and how to review an asbestos management plan to locate asbestos-containing building materials in your premises.

**Speakers: Amy Costello**, Safety & Health Specialist and **Nicole Roel**, Director of Risk Management are both AHERA Certified Building Inspectors and Management Planners at OESD 114 in Bremerton Washington. They have experience helping over 20 schools with asbestos testing, updating management plans, and providing designated person training. In addition to asbestos, they support school districts in their region with all other Occupational Health and Safety needs.

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