psesd
excellence & equity in education
Puget Sound Educational Service District

Workers' Compensation Trust
Unemployment Pool

2026 PSWCT/UP Education & Training Sessions

WEBINAR

Return-to-Work Strategies: A Win/Win for Employer and Employee

Thursday, February 19, 2026
10:00 am – noon

Implementing effective return-to-work strategies benefits both employers and employees by enhancing morale and productivity. Focusing on skills enhancement training prepares employees for their roles and meets state job offer expectations. Engaging workers throughout the process helps them feel valued and supported, resulting in a motivated workforce and a successful return to work for all involved.

Speaker: Sonia Stratton Masuga has been a Vocational Consultant with 30 years of experience providing services including: early intervention, vocational assessment, job accommodation/ modification, job analyses, labor market surveys and research, rehabilitation planning, job placement activities, and ability to work assessments. Sonia provides vocational rehabilitation services to workers covered by Washington State Department of Labor and Industries in both state funded as well as self-insured cases. Her practice also includes providing vocational expert testimony in litigated cases as well as Social Security Disability hearings. Sonia has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation from UW-Stout with a concentration in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree from Western Washington University in Rehabilitation Counseling. She holds national certifications as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and as a Certified Disability Management Specialist (CDMS). In her non-working hours, Sonia enjoys music, gardening, hiking, camping, and knitting.

REGISTER NOW

WEBINAR

An Ounce of Prevention vs. a Pound of Shortcomings: Mitigating Workplace Injuries

Thursday, February 26, 2026
10:00 am – noon

This presentation will cover how to prevent workplace injuries and what to do after an incident. The presenter will discuss conducting claims trend analyses, performing effective site inspections, and maintaining hazardous material controls for all departments. The presenter will also highlight how to build a strong safety culture through staff involvement, regular training, and proper use of PPE. By the end, you'll understand how to recognize, prevent, and mitigate potential losses, and how to respond when incidents occur.

Speakers: Karen Durley is an employee of A.J. Gallagher as a Client Services Executive and advises public entity clients on property & casualty claims, risk management, loss control and construction-related risks. She started her career in the insurance industry in 1979 working in Claims starting as an Adjuster to Claims Manager for 26 years. During that time, she broadened her expertise to include managing property and general liability claims, investigating losses, handling fraud cases, overseeing claims in litigation, and conducting construction and school site inspections.

Anthony Carlton is a member of the Gallagher Public Entity Division and develops insurance and risk management insurance programs for clients throughout the western United States. He works with his clients on the marketing and design of insurance programs. Since joining Gallagher in 2022, he has expanded our education presence to include Utah. Prior to joining Gallagher, Anthony was the Executive Director of Facilities, Planning, Risk Management and Legal at a large school district in California with over 30,000 students in enrollment. He has served as a K-12 risk manager for over 12 years and consults with districts on developing risk management programs to contain costs and improve staff safety. Anthony has recently spoken on the emerging trends and issues within insurance including at the 2024 California Coalition of Workers' Compensation on the emergence of artificial intelligence in workers compensation.
Anthony is an Area Vice President at Gallagher.

REGISTER NOW

WEBINAR

Ergonomic Assessment Overview

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
10:00 am – noon

This training is designed to equip school district employees with the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct effective ergonomic assessments in various work environments. Participants will learn the principles of ergonomic design, understand the importance of workplace safety, and identify strategies to reduce the risk of injury and enhance productivity.

Speakers: John Zeman is an Ergonomics Consultant for Washington State L&I. Mr. Zeman helps employers prevent injuries and boost productivity through targeted ergonomics training and consultation. He holds a graduate degree in Human Factors and Ergonomics from the University of South Dakota and brings over 20 years of experience in safety and health. His background includes roles at Alcoa, POET Biofuels, South Dakota DOT, the U.S. Air Force, and now Washington State Labor & Industries.John specializes in practical, low-cost solutions that reduce risk and support long-term workforce health. Whether working with frontline staff or leadership, he delivers hands-on strategies that make work safer and more efficient.

Ashwini Sharath is a Statewide Consultation Ergonomist with Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. She holds dual degrees in Advanced Biotechnology from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia and a Masters degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Auburn University in Alabama, specializing in Occupational Safety and Health.
Her career spans roles at Apple Inc. and Saturn Ergonomics Consultation Services, where she focused on workplace injury prevention and user-centered software designed for professionals in the field of ergonomics. Ashwini is passionate about creating solutions that not only prevent injuries but also enhances user experience, productivity, and satisfaction.

REGISTER NOW

Questions? Contact us at memberservices@pswctup.org Session recordings will be available upon request.

WEBINAR

Building Effective Safety Committees

Wednesday, April 15, 2026
10:00 am – noon

This training program helps safety committee members, supervisors, and managers develop skills to improve workplace safety and meet regulatory requirements. Participants will learn to set clear goals for preventing injuries, run effective meetings, and conduct thorough incident reviews and safety walkthroughs. The training emphasizes getting everyone involved in the safety committee to effectively solve problems. Attendees will also see various tools and resources that can help create a safe work environment in the long run. By the end of the program, participants will be ready to contribute to a strong safety culture and ongoing improvement in their organization.

Speaker: Orlando Cerrillo is a seasoned Loss Control Consultant with over 27 years of experience in the field of Occupational Safety. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Safety from Central Washington University, which laid the foundation for his successful career. Throughout his professional journey, Orlando has specialized in various industries including Education, Construction, and Manufacturing, where he has developed a deep understanding of the unique safety challenges each sector faces. His expertise in loss control and risk management has enabled him to significantly contribute to the safety and well-being of countless employees and organizations. Orlando's dedication to promoting safe work environments and his proactive approach to identifying and mitigating potential hazards have made him a respected figure in the field. With a passion for continuous improvement and a commitment to excellence, Orlando Cerrillo remains a pivotal advocate for occupational safety, working diligently to ensure that safety regulations are not only met but exceeded in all the areas he serves.

REGISTER NOW

WEBINAR

PSWCT/UP Reasonable Assurance and Updates

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
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, is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and has 25 years of commercial insurance industry experience. Leigh Ann worked for a workers' compensation insurance carrier in Kentucky for 14 years as an underwriter and premium auditor. Since moving to Washington 10 years ago, Leigh Ann worked in account management for commercial insurance agencies before starting at PSESD in October 2019. At PSESD, she has been involved in unemployment claims, first as a Senior Coordinator of Client Relations and then as the Unemployment Consultant in September 2021.

REGISTER NOW

Scan to view trainings online.

STUDENT AGGRESSION AWARENESS SERIES

WEBINAR

Part I: Resilience in Difficult Situations

Wednesday, May 20, 2026
10:00 am – noon

This two-part series will address student behavioral health needs, understand and address student aggression. This first session will address self-care, burn out and encouraged the development of our own resiliency self-care toolkit.

Speaker: Jaime Fajardo, Director of Student Support Services at Puget Sound Educational Service District attended the University of Washington where he obtained a Bachelors in Society, Ethics and Human Behavior as well as a master's in social work (MSW). He has worked with youth for over 10 years primarily in the juvenile justice field, such as juvenile institutions and court-involved youth. Jaime then became a counselor, a program manager and is now serving as a Director for Student Support Services at Puget Sound Educational Service District 121. Jaime finds it very important to be present and deal with difficult and extreme situations when working with young people and also find strategies to feel empowered and able to process so that we can re-charge ourselves to serve our students to the best of our abilities and show the highest compassion. This work is close to him since he finds it important that we build a community and help each other so we can be present, while also feeling enriched by the work we do.

REGISTER NOW

WEBINAR

Part II: Resilience in Difficult Situations

Thursday, June 18, 2026
10:00 am – noon

In the second part of our two-part series, 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: Jaime Fajardo, Director of Student Support Services at Puget Sound Educational Service District

REGISTER NOW

Training session recordings are available upon request by contacting Member Services.