

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for School Age Basics

Who can participate?

This training is for all staff and volunteers who work with school-age children (5-12 years old) in Washington State licensed programs.

NOTE: this training does not meet the requirements for staff working with preschool and infants (under 5 years). The training requirement for early learning staff is called “Child Care Basics”. Please use the MERIT portal to search for Child Care Basics and other early learning training opportunities.

How do I get started?

Navigate to our [Trainings & Workshops](#) page. Register for a ‘**School Age Basics**’ session that works best for your schedule. Please only register for one School Age Basics session. If you have registered for more than one it will affect your access so, please email training@schoolsoutwashington.org.

What happens at the Live-facilitated Virtual School Age Basics session?

In the session, you will receive a 45-minute informational orientation to the course. The live-facilitated virtual session will provide hands-on support to prepare you to successfully complete the coursework.

NEW! Attending the Live Virtual School Age Basics Session is optional. You will gain access to the online training platform regardless of your attendance of the live-facilitated virtual session.

How quickly do I need to complete the course?

Participants will have 6 weeks in our online learning platform to complete 11 courses. The course is **self-paced**, and we highly recommend **completing the course within the first 30 days of being enrolled into 360Learning**. All course work must be reviewed AND validated by our instructors to receive STARS credit and certification BEFORE the 6-week deadline.

NOTE: If you do not complete all the courses within 6 weeks, you will be required to complete all the courses from the beginning.

Why can't I move to the next course?

You will need a score of at least 80% on quizzes within each course to move forward to the next course. You can retake the quiz as many times as needed until you get 80%. Once you pass, 360Learning will allow you to move forward to the next course.

Do I need to wait for an instructor to validate my questions before moving to the next course?

No. You do not need to wait for an instructor to review and validate your responses to move through courses. You can retake the quiz as many times as needed until you get 80%. Instructors can take up to 10 business days to give feedback on your responses and we want you to be able to move at your own pace without waiting. Be aware that a live instructor reviews your answers and will ask you to respond or retry any questions that are blank, not fully articulated, or appear to have been generated by AI such as ChatGPT. Each course must be validated to count towards completion.

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Can I complete School-Age Basics on smart phone, tablet, or another handheld device?

No. This course type is not supported through the app on a smart phone, tablet, or other handheld devices. School-Age Basics will need to be completed on a computer or laptop.

What are the THREE (3) required steps?

STEPS TO COMPLETION

- 1. Register for online [School-Age Basics](#). Attend the *optional* live-facilitated School Age Basics OR take the required Welcome to School Age Basics in 360Learning*.**
Participants will be given access to the 360Learning online platform every Monday by 5pm during open registration for the cohort.
- 2. Complete the 11 Online Courses** in 360 Learning within 6 weeks.
All coursework must be reviewed and validated by an instructor to count toward the certificate.
- 3. Sign Up & Participate in the mandatory Live Closing Reflection.** Closing Reflection registration will be available through the 360Learning platform once prior steps have been completed.

**NOTE: You must complete the 11 Courses to attend the Live-facilitated Virtual Closing Reflection*

Do I need to complete the three (3) steps in order?

Yes, it is essential to complete all three (3) steps in order. You will not be able to attend the **Live-facilitated Virtual Closing Reflection** if steps 1-2 are not complete. For reference, here is the [School Age Basics Checklist](#)

What if I don't finish within 6 weeks?

If you don't finish the full course within 6 weeks, you will be removed from the online learning platform and will need to sign up for a new course. We understand that some individuals may need more than 6 weeks to complete the course, in these instances, time extensions may be requested. Please email training@schoolsoutwashington.org. We will approve extensions on a case-by-case basis.

Does the training still take 30hrs?

Yes. There are no major changes to the courses or coursework requirements. Because the work is self-paced, completing School-Age Basics may take more or less than 30 hours depending on the needs and pace of the participant. The average completion time is 20 hours.

When does STARS credit get updated in MERIT?

Certificate of Completion and STARS credit reflection in MERIT will occur by the 10th of the month AFTER all coursework validations have been completed by the participant and the instructor **All three (3) steps must be completed to receive MERIT credit. You will not receive STARS credit if any step is missing.**

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Does School Age Basics meet my training hours for the year?

The DCYF reviews training hours based on an annual calendar that runs January-December. If you are completing this course within the first 90 days of employment working with school-age (5-12) children in Washington State, this meets your requirement for the calendar year you complete the course. According to the School-Age WACs, completion of 10 annual in-service training hours (STARS hours) is based on 12 months of cumulative employment. Please speak with your direct supervisor if you have a unique situation that may require additional in-service hours per licensing requirements.

When is the next Closing Reflection?

Our Closing Reflections happen on the 2nd Thursday and 4th Saturday of each month. You will only be able to register for the next two available Closing Reflections. You can see upcoming dates for the closing reflections on our [School Age Basics web page](#).

Where do I find the registration link to the Closing Reflection?

You will get access to the Closing Reflection registration links only after completing ALL 11 courses in 360Learning. This is found after the 11th course "School Age Basics Coursework". If no registration links are available, you can expect a new registration link to be added within 7 business days of the Closing Reflection date.

Will the same instructor at the Live-facilitated Virtual School Age Basics session grade my work?

No, there are multiple instructors that validate your work in 360Learning. If you have any questions, please reach out to training@schoolsoutwashington.org as this inbox is monitored by our instructors.

How long will it take for my coursework to be reviewed and validated?

It will take up to 10 business days. While waiting for coursework to be reviewed and validated, please take the time to review your learning and participate in the optional discussion forum for each course. Once an instructor reviews and validates all your work and you have attended the Closing reflection, a certificate will be issued, and STARS credit will be updated in MERIT by the 10th of the following month. (If this is a holiday or falls on a weekend, it will be updated on the following business day)

Do I need to take this training if I already took an early learning course in college?

The Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families recognizes ECED&107 Health, Safety & Nutrition as an approved alternative to the School Age Basics training requirement. If you've completed this course, please make sure to fill out your education application and send your college transcript to education.verification@centralia.edu.

Additional questions? Contact us at training@schoolsoutwashington.org

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