



# Washington State Department of Early Learning

## Requirements for Practicum Students

### Background Checks

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is working on clarifying its policies regarding practicum students and background checks. Practicum students, whether or not they are in high school or college, are considered volunteers in the classrooms. For the most up-to-date information regarding portable background checks for volunteers, please visit [DEL's portable background check website](#).

### Age

WAC [170-295-1050](#) sets a requirement that volunteers in licensed centers must be 16 years of age or older. Therefore, all practicum students in licensed centers must be 16 or older. WAC [170-296A-1050](#) sets a requirement that volunteers in licensed family homes must be 14 or older. Therefore, all practicum students in licensed family homes must be 14 or older.

### Health and Safety Requirements

**TB skin test:** All students must have a one-step Mantoux Tuberculosis (TB) skin test prior to beginning their practicum placement, unless they have written proof of a negative TB skin test within the past 12 months prior to placement. If students are exposed to TB, they must notify both their practicum teacher and child care lead staff person immediately. Students may be required to do another TB skin test during their placement if the child care center director or family home lead staff is informed that any staff or volunteers have been exposed to TB.

**Student/volunteer illness:** WAC [170-295-3030](#) outlines when staff and children are too sick to be at the child care facility. Volunteers will also follow these requirements. Students may not attend practicum when they are experiencing:

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Open or oozing sores, unless properly covered with cloths or bandages
- Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher with an earache, headache, sore throat, rash, or fatigue

**Food handlers' permits:** Students will not be required to obtain a food handlers' permit prior to practicum placement. According to WAC [170-295-3170](#), one staff person at each child care facility must have a food permit to monitor and oversee food handling and service as well as provide orientation and training for others handling food. Students may assist with food preparation, as long as they are not unsupervised and not cooking a full meal.