



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: September 28, 2018

Number: 18-04

Subject: Preliminary Education Specialist Program Implementation
Timeline Update

Summary

Over the past several years, the Commission has taken action to significantly update and strengthen the preparation educators receive to serve students with disabilities. The actions taken include identifying a common trunk of preparation for all teachers (general education and Education Specialists), restructuring the number and type of preliminary Education Specialist credentials, identifying new Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs) for each credential area, and planning for the development of a teaching performance assessment.

In August, [PSA 18-03](#) was issued notifying programs that new Preliminary Education Specialist Standards were adopted at the [August 2, 2018 Commission meeting](#) as part of the comprehensive effort to strengthen and streamline the Commission's accreditation system. In addition, [PSA 18-03](#) provided a timeline for approved preliminary Education Specialist programs to transition to the new standards. **This timeline is no longer applicable.** At this time, it is likely that the date by which all programs need to be fully aligned with new standards will be extended to summer of 2021. It is to a program's benefit to continue to review the new standards with all key faculty and personnel to determine what changes will need to be put into place in order to be fully aligned with the new standards once the implementation date is determined.

Due to the complex nature of restructuring the Education Specialist credentials, standards, and requirements, the Commission staff has reconsidered the timeline for requiring the transition

plans that was included in PSA 18-03. At this time, until additional work is substantially completed, including work related to the regulatory package that is necessary to implement the new credential structure, the appropriate timeline for submission of transition plans is under review. Dates and deadlines will be confirmed as soon as they become known. Updates on future special education activities will be announced in the [PSD E-News](#).