



TO: Diane Z. Chase, Ph.D., SVC/SVP for Academic Affairs and Provost

FROM: Jane Smith, Ph.D., Dean, College of Education 

CC: Daniel Chang, Assistant Provost, Academic Programs
Sarah Larsen, Ph.D., Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School

DATE: September 25, 2026

RE: **NOTIFICATION MEMO** - Administrative Change Request - Program Transfer of M.Ed. Special Populations (CIP Code: 909.100) from PHLS to ELP

The Request

This is a request to process a program change to reunify the M.Ed. Program in Special Populations with the Special Populations' Professional Leadership Ed.D. Program. This is a simple program reunification move from the Department of Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences to the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. In 2009-2010 the Professional Leadership Ed.D. began in DELPS. The Special Populations sub-plan for that degree admitted students in 2012- 2013 in DELPS. The M.Ed. Special Populations remained in EPSY/PHLS. Historically, the faculty in these two programs plan, teach, do research, and serve students as a program. All faculty members affiliated with both programs moved to DELPS effective September 1, 2023.

Nature and Rationale/Justification for Program Change

This is a minor administrative program change of an existing program from one department to another department in the College of Education with no budget implications. This change will reunify and organize all the faculty in special population programs in the same department with both of their graduate programs. Faculty who teach, do research and do service in programs for special populations, focusing in special education and Gifted and Talented will be organized in the same department as the Ed.D. Professional Leadership Special Populations. This organizational change will facilitate a context for the development of research quality and effective practices in programs for special populations. Special populations are often small subgroups of a population of interest for researchers. Organizing programs for small subgroups of the population increases the efficiency, quality of teaching, research, and practice for special education, bilingual, and other mandated special populations programs (Hanushek, Kain, & Rivkin, 2004). This administrative change improves academic quality for M.Ed. students.

Budget

There will be no budget implications with this proposed change.

Faculty Contact

Jane Smith, Ph.D., Professor, jsmith@uh.edu, 713-123-4567

References

Hanushek, E.E., Kain, J.F. & Rivkin, S.G. (2004), "Why public schools lose teachers." *Journal of Human Resources*, 39(2), 326-354.

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