

## **Changes to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Test**

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The USCIS Naturalization Test is being revised and those changes will be implemented in 2008. The purpose of these changes is to create a naturalization test that is -

“...standardized, fair and meaningful. A standardized and fair naturalization test will include uniform testing protocols and procedures nationwide to ensure that there is no variation between offices. A meaningful test will encourage civic learning and patriotism among prospective citizens. A revised test, with an emphasis on the fundamental concepts of American democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, will help to encourage citizenship applicants to learn and identify with the basic values that we all share as Americans.” (USCIS, 2006)

The revised test will focus less on memorization and more on comprehension, including a strong understanding of citizenship concepts.

The current Citizenship Content Standards for Nevada’s AEFLA Funded Programs are reflected in the revised USCIS Naturalization Test. For example, students will demonstrate knowledge of U.S. history and geography (Beginning: Standard I, Intermediate: Standard II, Advanced, Standard II). Additionally, students completing the advanced citizenship level will describe the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship (Advanced: Standard I), and students will demonstrate knowledge of the structure and function of U.S. government as well as the relationship that exists between this knowledge and the rights and responsibilities of U. S. citizenship (Advanced: Standard III).

These standards and indicators emphasize comprehension of key citizenship concepts rather than simply memorization of facts.

For a more detailed discussion or further information regarding the revised USCIS Naturalization Test, please visit the USCIS website at <http://www.uscis.gov>.