



# SAVES

## Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

### Miami, Florida Selected as Pilot Location For New Naturalization Test

Miami is one of ten locations selected by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to pilot a revised version of the naturalization (citizenship) test. Participation in the new pilot test is voluntary. Interested participants must correctly answer six out of ten questions to pass the U.S. History/ Government /Civics portion.



Dr. Michael Jones, Senior Advisor on Immigration Education and Testing, USCIS.

Applicants have the opportunity to study the questions as well as a sample list of United States civics vocabulary. When they receive their appointment notice, applicants for the naturalization test will be provided copies of both the U.S. History and Civics questions, as well as the English vocabulary they should study. The questions are available at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) as well.

On December 1, 2006, The English Center, an adult education center of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system, hosted a focus group led by Dr. Michael Jones, program specialist with the Department of Homeland Security's USCIS Office. Representatives from various community groups and educational institutions had an opportunity to clarify issues and concerns related to the pilot, as well as future versions of the new naturalization test.

Dr. Gemma Santos, from the English Center, is the only practicing Citizenship teacher serving on the International TESOL panel currently advising the Department of Homeland Security on the re-design of the Naturalization test.



Ms. Teresa Bestor, Director of Florida Adult Education and Ms. Chely Rajoy-Tarpin, Principal of The English Center

Dr. Santos has kept the local community informed of the progress in the development of the test, and, along with Ms. Berta Cassidy, Dr. Alejandro Borbolla, and Mr. Carlos Baena, was instrumental in coordinating the successful meeting held at the English Center. The English Center has a long history of serving Miami's diverse immigrant community. It is one of the largest sites in Miami for providing Skills for Academic, Vocational and English Studies (SAVES) services to eligible refugee and asylee adults, as well as serving the community at large.



Mr. Bobby Gornto and Dr. Gemma Santos, MDCPS

Prepared with funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Refugee Services.

For more success stories, go to <http://saves.dadeschools.net>

If you know anyone else who would like to receive future newsletters, please send your request to [Jtravieso1@aol.com](mailto:Jtravieso1@aol.com).