

Article Continued: Immigration Reform and English Language Requirements

This requirement could have important ramifications for the field of adult education and literacy. The [National Council of State Director's of Adult Education](#) recently released a position paper urging that any provision regarding the teaching of English, civics and citizenship to individuals seeking citizenship be operated through the existing system of program services established in Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). They go on to recommend that Congress expand program funding, accessibility and professional development opportunities for ESOL providers to meet to meet what will likely be an increased demand for services. The [National Coalition for Literacy](#) and [ProLiteracy](#) have also called for similar provisions.

This is a good time for legislators to hear from ESOL practitioners as to how to best address this issue while details for the forthcoming bills are being discussed. Adult education and literacy providers are in a good position to help policy makers understand options, potential barriers and reasonable expectations when it comes to enacting policies that may affect millions of our nation's immigrants.