

## NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD (NSB)

**\$4,370,000**  
**+\$70,000 / 1.6%**

The FY 2015 Request for the National Science Board is \$4.37 million, up 1.6 percent or \$70,000 over the FY 2014 Estimate of \$4.30 million. The FY 2015 Budget Request will enable the Board to fulfill its policymaking responsibilities for NSF. This funding will allow the Board to continue its responsibilities as outlined in the agency's Organic Act including activities related to the review of major research facilities projects.

### National Science Board

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	Change over	
	Actual	Estimate	Request	FY 2014 Estimate Amount	Percent
<b>Total, NSB</b>	<b>\$4.10</b>	<b>\$4.30</b>	<b>\$4.37</b>	<b>\$0.07</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	18	19	19	-	-

Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Appropriations Language

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C 1863) and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), ~~\$4,300,000~~ *\$4,370,000: Provided, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.*

### National Science Board

#### FY 2015 Summary Statement

(Dollars in Millions)

	Enacted/ Request	Permanently Reduced	Expired	Total Obligations/ Resources	Estimates
FY 2013 Appropriation	\$4.44	-\$0.31	-\$0.03	\$4.10	\$4.10
FY 2014 Estimate	4.30			4.30	4.30
FY 2015 Request	4.37			4.37	4.37
\$ Change from FY 2014 Estimate					\$0.07
% Change from FY 2014 Estimate					1.6%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

## National Science Board in Context

The Board, established by the NSF Act of 1950, has dual responsibilities to: a) provide national science policy advice to the President and Congress; and b) establish policies for NSF. The Board is composed of 24 presidentially-appointed members, plus the NSF Director as an *ex officio* member, representing the broad U.S. science and engineering (S&E) community. Board members, who serve 6-year terms on staggered appointments, are drawn from industry, academe, non-profit organizations and professional scientific societies, and represent the breadth of S&E disciplines supported by NSF. They are selected for their eminence in research, education, or public service.

The Board currently meets for five formally scheduled meetings a year and additional meetings as needed to review and approve major NSF awards and new programs, oversee and provide policy direction to NSF, and address significant science and engineering related national policy issues. It initiates and conducts studies and reports on a range of policy topics and reviews NSF's priorities both to ensure progress and consistency along the strategic direction set for NSF and to ensure balance among new investments and core programs.

## **Policy Responsibilities**

Issues of importance to the science, engineering, and education communities in general and to the NSF in particular are often examined by the Board. Topics for exploration are determined through requests from Congress or the President or as identified by the Board in consultation with the science community and NSF management. Recent reports have examined topics such as merit review, mid-scale instrumentation, data policies, public research universities, science and engineering education, and the U.S. innovation system. Identification of Board items for study in FY 2015 will be determined at a later date.

In addition to those special studies, the Board has several standing committees to assist with its responsibilities. The Committee on Audit and Oversight (A&O) provides general supervision for the NSF Inspector General; oversight of major agency administrative processes and principal administrative systems; and review of the agency's internal controls.

The Committee on Strategy and Budget (CSB) focuses on strategic planning and new investments for NSF; analyzes the Foundation's budget to ensure progress and consistency against strategic direction for the Foundation; and identifies strategic, typically long-term, issues that are critical to NSF's future. Within CSB, the Subcommittee on Facilities (SCF) provides guidance and review of the NSF-funded research equipment and facilities portfolio, including both Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account-funded and Research and Related Activities (R&RA)-funded facilities.

The Committee on Education and Human Resources (CEH) focuses on policy direction and advice on major policy issues related to the NSF education, informal science, and training portfolio. It also provides advice on major national policy issues in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, human resource needs and employment, and human resource development for consideration by the Board.

The Committee on Science and Engineering Indicators (SEI) oversees the development, production and recommends approval to the Board for release of the Board's biennial report, *Science and Engineering Indicators*, and other related products; and keeps the Board informed on trends and other data with significant policy implications identified during the production of *Indicators*. The Board's publication, *Science and Engineering Indicators*, is a statutory responsibility. Over the past several years, the Board has heightened its efforts to increase the accessibility of *Indicators*, implementing enhancements such as the online *Digest of Key Science and Engineering Indicators* that allow audiences outside the usual community of users to become familiar with the data resources in *Indicators* and to facilitate the use of *Indicators* data in policy decisions and analyses. The 2014 edition of *Science and Engineering Indicators* was transmitted to Congress and the President on February 6, 2014. The Board has also developed additional policy statements based on the *Indicators* data to assist policymakers in their deliberations on science and technology issues as well as an update to the STEM Education Data and Trends web tool which emphasizes and highlights various *Indicators* data points of particular interest to educators and education stakeholders.

The Board is responsible for direct review and approval of the Foundation’s largest awards, and is responsible for the review and approval of MREFC projects at all stages of development, including budget planning, review of proposals and management effectiveness, and approval of awards. The Committee on Programs and Plans (CPP) provides guidance and advice on major policy issues related to the NSF Research and Related Activities portfolio, reviews proposals representing a significant expenditure of agency resources, and makes recommendations, as appropriate, to the full Board for its consideration and action. CPP also provides oversight, guidance, and advice on major policy and operational issues related to the NSF polar research portfolio.

The Board’s Executive Committee (EC) is required by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. Section 1865). It consists of the NSF Director, who chairs the Committee, and four elected members from the Board. The Board may delegate to the Executive Committee or to the NSF Director or both, powers and functions granted to the Board by the NSF Act.

Ongoing activities of the Board include review and approval of the following:

- Large awards, MREFC projects, or proposal funding requests and other proposals as needed;
- NSF’s Management Response to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Semi-annual Reports to Congress;
- The NSF, OIG and the NSB Office of Management and Budget (OMB) budget submissions;
- The priority order of projects in the MREFC Account;
- Inclusion of new project(s) requiring funding under the MREFC Account; and
- The NSF Strategic Plan.

The Board also receives reviews of the following from NSF:

- Financial management reports for NSF;
- The operation of NSF’s merit review system;
- NSF research infrastructure portfolio;
- NSF human capital reports.

**Office of the National Science Board**  
**Personnel Compensation and Benefits and General Operating Expenses**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Change over	
				FY 2014 Estimate Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$2,678	\$3,080	\$3,126	\$46	1.5%
Staff Development and Training	28	36	36	0	0.0%
Advisory and Assistance Services	1,049	728	721	-7	-1.0%
Travel and Transportation of Persons	252	333	344	11	3.3%
Communications, Supplies, and Equipment	89	120	140	20	16.7%
Representation Costs	-	3	3	0	0.0%
<b>Total, NSB</b>	<b>\$4,096</b>	<b>\$4,300</b>	<b>\$4,370</b>	<b>\$70</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Full-Time Equivalent	18	19	19	-	

Totals may not add due to rounding.

## **Personnel Compensation and Benefits**

The Board's FY 2015 Budget Request supports a core of full-time policy, administrative, legal, and operations staff. In addition to garnering institutional memory, the Board Office staff provides both the independent resources and capabilities for coordinating and implementing science and education policy analyses and development, and the operational support that is essential for the Board to fulfill its mission.

## **Other Operating Expenses**

NSB's Advisory and Assistance Services includes the resources needed to produce policy reports to include the Board's *Science and Engineering Indicators*, which is a statutory responsibility. Over the past several years, the Board has heightened its efforts to increase the accessibility of *Indicators*, including the development of companion reports. The 2014 edition of *Science and Engineering Indicators* was released to Congress on February 2014.

Most of the Board's reports require expert analysis from organizations such as the Science and Technology Policy Institute, a Federally Funded Research and Development Center supported by NSF. Another major expense in the Advisory and Assistance Services line is the development and maintenance of a content management system to search, identify, and retrieve relevant documents for reference and research purposes. This content management system houses substantive Board materials, such as discussions, decisions, and meeting minutes. Other costs within the Advisory and Assistance Services line are associated with the Open Government initiative including the webcasting and archiving of all open Board meetings, as well as transcription services, and report printing and dissemination.

NSB's Travel and Transportation of Persons account primarily covers Board member travel costs to NSF headquarters for four meetings, and to one off-site meeting, as well as travel for invited speakers and participants in Board activities. The Communications, Supplies, and Equipment line funds the range of electronic purchases, upgrades and installations, such as copiers and computers.

The FY 2015 Request level will facilitate the continued expansion of the Board's media and online outreach efforts that have been successfully used to inform the general public and STEM communities about the Board's activities and the availability of its published reports and other informative materials. Such efforts will continue to expand the community served by the Board on issues and activities relevant to S&E research and education. Further, these enhanced outreach capabilities will incorporate the advice and guidance of media and online communications experts and consultants who will recommend and advise the Board on the best practices for reaching targeted audiences via the press and/or media interactions, as well as online.