

**NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD (NSB)****\$4,320,000**  
**+\$50,000 / 1.2%**

The FY 2019 Budget Request for the National Science Board (NSB, Board) is \$4.32 million, which is an increase of \$50,000 from the FY 2017 Actual of \$4.27 million. This FY 2019 Budget Request will enable the Board to fulfill its policymaking and oversight responsibilities for NSF. It will also allow the Board to continue its statutory responsibilities as outlined in the Organic Act, including activities related to the authorization of major research facilities projects.

**National Science Board Funding**

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	Change Over	
	Actual	Annualized CR	Request	FY 2017 Actual Amount	Percent
<b>Total, NSB</b>	<b>\$4.27</b>	<b>\$4.34</b>	<b>\$4.32</b>	<b>\$0.05</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)	18	19	19	1	5.6%

**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.), ~~\$4,370,000~~**\$4,320,000**: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

**National Science Board  
FY 2019 Summary Statement**

(Dollars in Millions)

	Enacted/ Request	Expired	Obligations Actual/ Estimates
FY 2017 Appropriation	\$4.37	-\$0.10	\$4.27
FY 2018 Annualized CR	4.34		4.34
FY 2019 Request	4.32		4.32
\$ Change from FY 2018 Annualized CR			-\$0.02
% Change from FY 2018 Annualized CR			-0.5%

**National Science Board in Context**

The NSB, established by the NSF Act of 1950, has dual responsibilities to: provide national science policy advice to the President and Congress; and establish policies for NSF within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The Board consists of 24 presidentially-appointed members plus the Director of NSF as an ex officio member. Representing the broad U.S. science and engineering (S&E) research and education community, the Board serves collectively as an advisory body on S&E issues critical to the Nation. Board members serve six-year terms on staggered appointments and are drawn from industry, academe, non-profit organizations, government, and professional scientific societies representing the breadth of S&E disciplines. They are selected to represent all areas of the Nation

based on their eminence in research, education, or public service.

The Board currently convenes at least four formally scheduled public meetings per year, with additional meetings as needed, to review and approve major NSF awards; provide guidance on new programs; oversee and provide policy direction to NSF; oversee the lifecycle of large facilities; and address significant S&E related national policy issues. The Board initiates and conducts studies and reports on a range of policy topics. The Board reviews NSF's priorities to ensure progress and consistency along the strategic direction set for NSF and to ensure balance among new investments and core programs.

### **Policy Responsibilities**

The Board examines issues of importance to the S&E research and education communities, in general, and to NSF, in particular. Topics for exploration are determined through requests from Congress or the President, and as the Board identifies in consultation with the community and NSF management. Recent reports have examined topics such as higher education as a public and private good and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce.

The Board has several standing committees to assist with its responsibilities. To enable the Board to fulfill its statutory and governance roles more effectively, members approved these new committees and charges in February 2017:

Executive Committee – This statutory Committee includes the Director of NSF, who chairs the Committee, and four elected members from the Board. The Board has delegated to this Committee its authority to approve awards in the rare instances when immediate action is required between Board meetings.

Committee on Oversight – Conducts independent oversight of NSF's operations, processes for risk management, audit plans and results, and processes for complying with laws and regulations; reviews Office of the Inspector General activities and NSF management responses; monitors audits and makes related recommendations to the Board; and oversees the Board's compliance with the Sunshine Act.

Committee on Strategy – Provides a forum for developing the Board's strategic discussions of NSF's budget, programs, organization structure and agency vision; makes recommendations to the Board on annual Budget Requests and quadrennial Strategic Plans; and provides strategic guidance to the Board on NSF's programs.

Committee on National S&E Policy – Oversees development and production of the congressionally-mandated *Science and Engineering Indicators (Indicators)* report in collaboration with NSF's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES); helps ensure that the S&E information and policy resources developed by the NSB are high-quality, policy-relevant, and accessible in order to meet stakeholder needs; and helps fulfill the NSB's charge to provide ongoing information and policy advice to Congress and the President on S&E research, education, and workforce issues.

Committee on Awards and Facilities – Addresses strategic issues and recommends policies to the Board related to awards and Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction projects; makes recommendations to the Board on awards and facilities; and provides lifecycle oversight on facilities and oversight on awards.

Committee on External Engagement – Leads the NSB's communication and engagement efforts with government, industry, the public and the research and education communities, and helps the Board advance the pursuit of national policies for the promotion of research and education in science and engineering.

Subcommittee on Honorary Awards – Reviews nominations for two awards established by the Board: the Vannevar Bush Award and the Public Service Award.

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

- Large awards, MREFC projects 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 budget submissions to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB);
- The priority order of projects in the MREFC Account;
- Inclusion of new project(s) requiring funding under the MREFC Account; and
- Transmittal of the NSF Budget Submission to OMB.

The Board also reviews and makes recommendations on the following from NSF:

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

**Office of the National Science Board**  
**Personnel Compensation and Benefits and Other Operating Expenses**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2018			Change Over	
	FY 2017 Actual	Annualized CR	FY 2019 Request	FY 2017 Actual Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation Benefits (PC&B) <sup>1</sup>	\$3,070	-	\$3,129	\$59	1.9%
Staff Development and Training	26	-	38	12	46.2%
Advisory and Assistance Services	812	-	722	-90	-11.1%
Travel and Transportation of Persons	226	-	308	82	36.3%
Communications, Supplies, and Equipment	133	-	120	-13	-9.8%
Representation Costs	3	-	3	-	-
<b>Total, NSB</b>	<b>\$4,270</b>	<b>\$4,340</b>	<b>\$4,320</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Full-Time Equivalent	18	19	19	1	5.6%

<sup>1</sup> FY 2019 PC&B includes base salary costs and anticipated within grade and promotion increases.

**Personnel Compensation and Benefits**

The Board’s FY 2019 budget supports a core of full-time policy, communications, administrative, legal, and executive secretariat staff. In addition to providing institutional memory for the Board, the Board Office staff provides both the resources and expertise for coordinating and conducting science and education policy analyses and development and implementing broad communication and outreach programs. Staff also advise the Board on legal aspects of its policies and activities and provides operational and administrative support that are essential for the Board to fulfill its mission.

**Other Operating Expenses**

The Board’s Advisory and Assistance Services budget line includes some of the resources needed to produce policy reports such as *Indicators*. Over the past several years, the Board has heightened its efforts to increase the accessibility of *Indicators* and to facilitate the use of *Indicators* data in policy decisions and analysis through the creation of interactive digital products. (The next edition of *Indicators* is scheduled for delivery to Congress in January 2018.) In addition, some of the Board’s reports require expert support from

organizations such as the Science and Technology Policy Institute, a federally-funded research and development center supported by NSF.

Other items in the Advisory and Assistance Services line support NSB document management, including maintenance of an electronic official records management system, which enables compliance with federal records requirements; the efficient search, identification, and retrieval of relevant documents for reference and research purposes; the webcasting and archiving of all open Board meetings and transcription services; and a board management software, which facilitates effective and efficient NSB meetings.

NSB's Travel and Transportation of Persons budget line primarily covers Board member travel costs to NSF headquarters for the Board's four annual meetings and a member-only retreat, travel for invited speakers and participants in Board activities, and community engagement activities organized by the Board, such as listening sessions designed to improve responsiveness to the concerns and priorities of the S&E community. Most recently, the Board organized listening sessions in Louisiana to explore the challenges and opportunities with the Skilled Technical Workforce and with Women and Underrepresented Minorities in STEM. Past NSB listening sessions have led to significant policy recommendations, such as those included in the Board's Reducing Investigators' Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research report. Also supported in this budget line is Board member travel to site visits in support of NSB's oversight of NSF's large programs and facilities. The Communications, Supplies, and Equipment budget line funds the range of electronic purchases, upgrades and installations of equipment such as computers.

The FY 2019 Budget Request will facilitate the continued thoughtful enhancement of the Board's efforts to strengthen the U.S. S&E enterprise through its policy and information-related activities. Specifically, the Request will support the NSB's continued engagement with stakeholders—including Congress, the Administration, academia, the business community, and the general public—to better understand their diverse needs. In turn, this will help the NSB (and NCSES) improve the usefulness of the resources it produces, ensuring that these stakeholders continue to have access to timely, comprehensible, and objective S&E data and policy guidance.