

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD (NSB)**\$4,210,000**
-\$113,000 / -2.6%

The FY 2021 Budget Request for the Office of the National Science Board is \$4.21 million, which is a decrease of \$113,000 below the FY 2019 Actual of \$4.32 million. This FY 2021 Request level will enable the Board to fulfill its policy-making and oversight responsibilities for NSF and continue its statutory responsibilities as outlined in the Organic Act, including activities related to the authorization of major research facilities projects.

NSB Funding					
(Dollars in Millions)					
	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Change over	
	Actual	Enacted	Request	FY 2019 Actual	Amount Percent
Total	\$4.32	\$4.50	\$4.21	-\$0.11	-2.6%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	17	18	17	-	N/A

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.), ~~\$4,500,000~~ **\$4,210,000**: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

National Science Board
FY 2021 Summary Statement
(Dollars in Millions)

	Enacted/ Request	Expired	Obligations Actual/ Estimates
FY 2019 Appropriation	\$4.37	-\$0.05	\$4.32
FY 2020 Enacted	4.50		4.50
FY 2021 Request	4.21		4.21
\$ Change from FY 2020 Enacted			-\$0.29
% Change from FY 2020 Enacted			-6.4%

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, including conducting site visits; and address significant S&E-related national policy issues. The Board initiates and conducts studies and reports on a range of policy topics and engages NSF's stakeholders nation-wide. 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 publications have examined topics such as the skilled technical workforce, mid-scale research infrastructure, operations and maintenance costs for NSF's large facilities, and the rise of China in S&E. Currently, the NSB is undertaking an effort to set a Vision for NSF for 2030.

The Board has several standing committees, and an *ad hoc* task force on the NSB Vision 2030 project to assist with its responsibilities.

The **Executive Committee** (EC) includes the Director of NSF, who chairs the Committee, and four elected members from the Board, of whom two are the NSB Chair and Vice-Chair. The Board has delegated to this Committee its authority to approve awards in the rare instances when immediate action is required between Board meetings.

The **Committee on Oversight** (CO) 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.

The **Committee on Strategy** (CS) 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.

The **Committee on National S&E Policy** (SEP) 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.

The **Committee on Awards and Facilities** (A&F) addresses strategic issues and recommends policies to the Board related to awards and MREFC projects; makes recommendations to the Board on awards and facilities; and provides lifecycle oversight on facilities and oversight on awards.

The **Committee on External Engagement** (EE) 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 S&E.

The **Subcommittee on Honorary Awards** (AWD) reviews nominations for two awards established by the Board: the Vannevar Bush Award and the Public Service Award.

The **Vision 2030 Task Force** (V2030) is leading the NSB’s effort to develop a Vision that will guide the Board and NSF actions and priorities in the coming decade. The Board anticipates publishing its Vision 2030 report early in calendar year 2020.

Ongoing activities of the Board include review and approval of:

- Large awards, MREFC projects and other proposals as needed;
- NSF’s Management Response to the Office of Inspector General Semi-annual Reports to Congress;
- Transmittal of the NSF, OIG, and NSB budget submissions to the Office of Management and Budget;
- Priority order of projects in the MREFC Account;
- Midscale Research Instrumentation-2 awards (and oversight of the Midscale Research Instrumentation-1 awards); and
- Inclusion of new projects requiring funding under the MREFC Account.

The Board also reviews and makes recommendations on:

- NSF’s financial management reports,
- 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 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Change over	
				FY 2019 Actual Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation & Benefits (PC&B) ¹	\$3,201	-	\$3,331	\$130	4.1%
Staff Development & Training	21	-	38	17	81.0%
Advisory & Assistance Services	608	-	517	-91	-15.0%
Travel & Transportation of Persons	354	-	221	-133	-37.6%
Communications, Supplies, & Equipment	136	-	100	-36	-26.5%
Representation Costs	3	-	3	-	N/A
Total	\$4,323	\$4,500	\$4,210	-\$113	-2.6%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	17	18	17	-	N/A

¹ FY 2021 PC&B includes base salary costs and anticipated within grade and promotion increases.

Personnel Compensation and Benefits

The Board’s FY 2021 Budget Request 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 developing 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. The Request reflects anticipated increases in NSB office staff pay and in performance awards spending in FY 2021.

Other Operating Expenses

The Staff Development and Training budget line supports various training events such as federal leadership training for management staff, Contracting Officer Representative (COR) training and recertification, and project management training, as well as facilitation services for staff retreats that have a professional development component.

The Board's Advisory and Assistance Services budget line includes some of the resources needed to produce reports such as the Congressionally mandated *Science and Engineering Indicators*. In recent years, the Board has created interactive digital products to facilitate accessibility and use of *Indicators* data in policy decisions and analysis. *Indicators 2018* included an electronic state data tool that allows for more frequent and timely updates and state one-pagers that highlight select data by state. For *Indicators 2020*, the Board will update the state data tool and state one-pagers, develop a series of thematic reports, and release *The State of U.S. Science and Engineering* in January 2020. In FY 2020, the Board will also produce its *Vision 2030*, which will provide strategic guidance to the NSB, NSF and the S&E enterprise over the next 10 years.

Other items in the Advisory and Assistance Services line support multimedia strategies, such as data-driven dynamic graphics, film, and video, to increase awareness and use of the Board's products by stakeholders. This budget line also supports maintenance of an electronic official records management system, which enables compliance with federal records requirements; the webcasting and archiving of all open Board meetings; transcription services necessary for compliance with the *Government in the Sunshine Act*; and board book management software, which facilitates effective and efficient NSB meetings.

The NSB's Travel and Transportation of Persons budget line primarily covers costs related to Board member travel to NSF headquarters for the Board's four annual meetings and a member-only retreat, for oversight of NSF's large programs and facilities, and for engaging stakeholders. To inform the NSB *Vision 2030* project, for example, the Board organized listening sessions in Washington D.C., Texas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Arizona, and South Dakota to hear from NSF stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities facing the S&E enterprise over the next 10 years. Also supported in this budget line is travel for invited speakers and participants in the NSB's activities, such as a panel on the future of fundamental S&E research that the Board organized at its February 2019 meeting.

The Communications, Supplies, and Equipment budget line funds communications services and information technology.

The FY 2021 Budget Request will support 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 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.