

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD**\$4,030,000**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Authorization Act of 2002 provided for a separate appropriation line item for the National Science Board (the Board) beginning in FY 2003. Accordingly, this FY 2008 Budget Request identifies the resources needed to support the Board, including amounts for personnel compensation and benefits, authorized travel, employment of external experts and consultants, and other appropriate expenses. The FY 2008 Request is \$4.03 million, an increase of \$120,000, or 3.1 percent, over the FY 2007 Request of \$3.91 million. The FY 2008 Budget Request will continue to enable the Board to fulfill its policy-making and oversight responsibilities for NSF and provide independent advice to the President and the Congress on significant national policy issues in science and engineering (S&E) research and education.

National Science Board Funding
(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Request	FY 2008 Request	Change Over FY 2007 Request	
				Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$1.62	\$1.70	\$1.86	\$0.16	9.4%
Other Operating Expenses	2.32	2.21	2.17	-0.04	-1.8%
Total, NSB	\$3.94	\$3.91	\$4.03	\$0.12	3.1%
Full-Time Equivalent Employees	15	14	14	-	

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Appropriation 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.), \$4,030,000: *Provided*, That not more than \$9,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

National Science Board
FY 2008 Summary Statement
(Dollars in Millions)

	Enacted/ Request	Rescission	Total Resources	Expired	Obligations Incurred/Est.
FY 2006 Appropriation	\$4.00	-\$0.05	\$3.95	-\$0.01	\$3.94
FY 2007 Request	3.91	-	3.91	-	3.91
FY 2008 Request	4.03	-	4.03	-	4.03
\$ Change from FY 2007					\$0.12
% Change from FY 2007					3.1%

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

Within the Office of the National Science Board FY 2006 appropriation, a total unobligated balance of \$7,473 expired.

Background on the National Science Board

As an independent federal agency, NSF does not fall under any cabinet department; rather NSF's activities are guided by the Board. The Board was established by the Congress both to serve as an independent national science policy body, and to oversee and guide the activities of NSF. It has dual responsibilities to: a) provide national science policy advice to the President and the Congress; and b) establish policies for NSF. The Board has 24 members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Board members, who serve six-year terms in intermittent appointments, are drawn from industry and universities, and represent a variety of S&E disciplines and geographic areas. They are selected for their preeminence in research, education, or public service. The NSF Director is also a full voting member (*ex officio*) of the Board.

In recent years, the Board has met six times a year to review and approve major NSF awards and new programs, oversee and provide policy direction to NSF, and deal with significant science and engineering related national policy issues. It initiates and conducts studies and reports on a broad range of policy topics, and publishes occasional policy papers or statements on issues of importance to U.S. science and engineering. The Board analyzes NSF's budget to ensure progress and consistency along the strategic direction set for NSF and to ensure balance between initiatives and core programs. It also identifies issues that are critical to NSF's future, and approves NSF's strategic budget directions and the annual budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

National Science Board Activities

Because it is required to establish the Foundation's policies within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress, the Board supports the strategic Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goals of the Foundation, including those identified in the President's Management Agenda (PMA). The Board conducts continuous assessment of the quality, relevance, and performance of the Foundation's award making, as called for in the Research and Development Investment Criteria of the PMA. The Board has received reports from the chairmen of the Foundation's Advisory Committee on GPRA Performance Assessment, and reviews and approves the summary results of the Foundation's annual GPRA performance goals and the updates of the NSF Strategic Plan. The NSF Director's report on merit review is presented to the Board each year, allowing the Board to monitor the quality and effectiveness of this keystone Foundation process.

The Board issues policy guidance in the form of official statements and resolutions dealing with topics, such as the Foundation's merit review criteria, cost sharing with universities, science and engineering education, the science and technology workforce, and funding and oversight of major research infrastructure projects. The Board is responsible for direct review and approval of the largest Foundation awards, and is responsible for the review and approval of major research infrastructure projects at all stages of development, including budget planning, review of proposals and management effectiveness, and approval of awards.

Much of the work of the Board is accomplished in committees, which make recommendations to the full Board for approval. The standing Committee on Audit and Oversight oversees the operations of the Foundation's Office of Inspector General (OIG), as well as NSF compliance with new procedures for financial accountability and information technology security. The members of the Committee on Programs and Plans (CPP) review proposals for major awards, the health of the Foundation's peer review system, and program performance and accountability. The Board monitors the critical infrastructure that supports research in Antarctica through the CPP Subcommittee on Polar Issues.

The Board established a Committee on Strategy and Budget (CSB) in 2001 to focus on strategic planning

and budget initiatives for NSF. Review of the Foundation's Budget Request is also vested in CSB. The Committee on Education and Human Resources (EHR) focuses on Foundation activities in such priority areas as S&E workforce development, math and science education, and underrepresented populations and regions in S&E programs. The EHR Subcommittee on S&E Indicators manages the process for development and review of the Board's biennial statistical report, *Science and Engineering Indicators*. *Science and Engineering Indicators 2006* was released by the President in February 2006. The Board's accompanying policy report entitled *America's Pressing Challenge – Building a Stronger Foundation* highlighted troubling trends in our Nation's K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education enterprise, and provided recommendations to address this issue.

During the last year, the Board accomplished a great deal in terms of its mission to provide oversight and policy directions to the Foundation, including: reviewed and endorsed the OIG Semi-annual Reports to Congress and approved NSF management responses; approved the NSF FY 2008 Budget Submission for transmittal to OMB; approved the Foundation's annual Merit Review Report; provided review and decisions on major awards or proposal funding requests; implemented a process for the development, review, approval, and prioritization of large facility projects by NSF, and reprioritized Board-approved Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account projects that had not yet received MREFC funding. The Board provided a bold new vision for NSF as part of its report entitled, *The National Science Board 2020 Vision for the National Science Foundation*, and approved a new strategic plan for NSF based on that vision.

In terms of advice to the President and the Congress, the Board is poised to make broad recommendations for a nationally coordinated hurricane research initiative with specific guidance for the role of NSF; has conducted three national hearings on K-16 STEM education; established a special Board Commission on STEM Education in the 21st Century that will be developing a national action plan for addressing the critical STEM education needs of our Nation while providing specific guidance for the role of NSF in the national STEM education enterprise; and is conducting national and international hearings and roundtable discussion to support its examination of the role of the federal government in supporting international S&E partnerships. The Board has provided testimony to Congress; interacted with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in meetings and forums on science and engineering issues; and responded to specific questions and inquiries from Senators and Representatives. Board meetings and deliberations continue to be more open in accord with the Government in the Sunshine Act, as directed by the NSF Act of 2002. The Board continues to improve its outreach and communications with the Congress, other agencies, various interest groups and the outside science and engineering research and education community.

The Board's Task Force on Hurricane S&E and Task Force on Transformative Research will both be finalizing their respective reports in FY 2007. These reports will provide broad recommendations regarding our Nation's research enterprise, as well as specific guidance for the roles that NSF should play in these efforts. During FY 2007, the Board will continue its initiative to develop improvements to and impact of the biennial *S&E Indicators* report, and begin steps to premiere a new condensed volume of the report in FY 2008.

National Science Board FY 2008 Budget Request

The Board's FY 2008 Budget Request seeks resources to carry out its statutory authority and to strengthen the Board's oversight responsibilities for the Foundation. Enhanced Board responsibilities established in the NSF Authorization Act of 2002 and directed by Congressional Report language include the continued expanding role in prioritizing and approving MREFC projects; new requirements for meetings open to the public; and responsibilities for reporting on the Foundation's budgetary and

programmatic expansion, with specific focus on the projected impact on the science and technology workforce, research infrastructure, size and duration of grants, and underrepresented populations and regions.

Effective communications and interactions with our constituencies contribute to the Board's work of identifying priority science and technology issues, and developing policy advice and recommendations to the President and Congress. To this end, the Board will continue to increase communication and outreach with the university, industry and the broader science and engineering research and education community, Congress, federal science and technology agencies, and the public. The Board's activities will aim to support U.S. global leadership in discovery and innovation based on a continually expanding and evolving science and technology enterprise in this country, and will ensure a principal role for NSF programs in providing a critical foundation for science and engineering research and education.

Among other activities in FY 2008, the Board expects to complete the work of the Commission on 21st Century Education in Science, Mathematics and Technology by making a formal report to the Congress. While many of these recommendations will be at a national system level, a number will focus specifically on the role NSF can and should play in supporting the development of an adequate and diverse science and engineering workforce. The Board will continue to review and approve NSF's actions for creating major NSF programs and funding, and expects new efforts to be implemented regarding enhancement of NSF support for potentially transformative research as a result of new Board guidance.

Several endeavors that the Board expects to formally complete by the end of FY 2007 will require significant follow-up outreach efforts by the Board in FY 2008 to ensure the desired impacts are realized. For example, lessons learned by the Board's experience with its 1982 STEM Education Commission report and the 2001 report on the role of the federal government in supporting international science, have provided clear and strong lessons on the importance of the Board undertaking significant follow-up efforts to ensure action based on their reports. While the Board's Commission on 21st Century Education in Science, Mathematics and Technology will complete its work in late FY 2007, it is clear that much follow-up outreach by the Board will be required throughout FY 2008 to ensure the work of the commission has the highest possible impact. Likewise, the Board's Task Force on International S&E partnerships will complete its work at the end of FY 2007, but will require significant follow-up by the Board in FY 2008 to avoid a repeat of the low impact of the Board's previous report on this topic.

The Board will be producing a new component to their biennial *S&E Indicators* report in FY 2008 that will require significant new effort on the part of the Board. In addition, the Board will continue to review and approve NSF's actions for creating major NSF programs and funding large projects in FY 2008, as well as dealing with evolving NSF policy issues. Experience has demonstrated that the Board will receive a number of requests from Congress asking that the Board examine and report quickly on a wide range of national policy topics related to S&E research and education. The Board welcomes such Congressional and Administration requests, and will itself continue to identify high priority topics focused specifically on NSF, or more broadly on national S&E policy issues that it feels it should examine in FY 2008.

Essential to the conduct of Board business is a small and independent core of full-time senior policy, clerical, and operations staff, supplemented by temporary contractual support as needed for various Board endeavors. This core of Board support is augmented by the Foundation as it continues to provide accounting, logistical, and other necessary resources in support of the Board and its missions. In addition to the Board Office's essential and independent resources and capabilities, external advisory and assistance services continue to be critical to support production of Board reports and supplement the

Board Office staff's general research and administration services to the Board. These external services provide the Board and its Office with the flexibility to respond independently, accurately, and quickly to requests from Congress and the President, and to address issues raised by the Board itself.

By statute the Board is authorized five professional positions and other clerical staff as necessary. In consultation with the Congress, the Board has defined these five professional positions as Board Office senior S&E policy staff, and the clerical positions as Board Office staff that support operations and related activities associated with the conduct of Board meetings and oversight responsibilities. The Board Executive Officer, who reports directly to the Board Chairman and also serves as the Director of the Board Office, continues to identify options for broadening the Board Office staff capabilities to better support the broad mission of the Board. The Board Office staff provides both the independent resources and capabilities for coordinating and implementing S&E policy analyses and development, and the operational support that are essential for the Board to fulfill its mission.

The full impact of increasing the number of professional positions to the statutory level will occur in FY 2008 with increased attention to addressing new skill requirements. Nevertheless, the results of a strategic restructuring of the Board Office management and operations over the last three years has led to more efficient use of appropriated resources while retaining the ability to support an active Board agenda.

Personnel Compensation and Benefits and General Operating Expenses

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Request	FY 2008 Request	Change over	
				FY 2007 Request Amount	Percent
Personnel					
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$1,620	\$1,700	\$1,862	\$162	9.5%
General Operations					
Staff Development & Training	25	25	25	-	-
Advisory & Assistance Service	1,420	1,306	1,279	-27	-2.1%
Other Services	220	230	180	-50	-21.7%
Travel	456	450	500	50	11.1%
Communication, Supplies & Equipment	190	190	175	-15	-7.9%
Representation Costs	9	9	9	-	-
	\$3,940	\$3,910	\$4,030	\$120	3.1%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

