

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD (NSB)**\$3,000,000**

The Appropriations Act that funds the National Science Foundation (NSF) contains a separate appropriation for NSF's National Science Board (NSB, Board). This FY 2026 Budget Submission identifies the resources needed to enable execution of the Board's statutory functions and ensure its independence, including amounts for personnel compensation and benefits (PC&B), contract services, training, travel, supplies, materials, and equipment.

The FY 2026 Budget Request for the Office of the National Science Board is \$3.0 million, a decrease of \$2,090,000 below the FY 2024 Appropriation of \$5.09 million. This FY 2026 Request level will allow the NSB to fulfill its essential policymaking and oversight responsibilities for NSF and its statutory responsibilities as outlined in the NSF Act, including *Science and Engineering Indicators*.

NSB Funding				
(Dollars in Millions)				
	FY 2024		Change over	
	Current	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2024
	Plan	(TBD)	Request	Current Plan
				Amount
				Percent
Total	\$5.09		\$3.00	-\$2.09
				-41.1%
Full-Time Equivalents	18		13	-5.00
				-27.8%

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.), \$3,000,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

National Science Board			
FY 2025 Summary Statement			
(Dollars in Millions)			
	Estimate/		Obligations
	Request	Expired	Actual/
			Estimates
FY 2024 Appropriation	\$5.09	-\$0.14	\$4.95
FY 2025 (TBD)			
FY 2026 Request	3.00		3.00
\$ Change from FY 2024 Appropriation			-\$2.09
% Change from FY 2024 Appropriation			-41.1%

National Science Board in Context

The NSB was established by the NSF Act of 1950 with dual responsibilities: to provide national science policy advice to the President and Congress, and to establish policies for NSF within the framework of applicable national policies and priorities set forth by the President and the Congress. The Board

consists of 24 presidentially appointed members, along with the Director of NSF as an ex-officio member. Representing the broad landscape of the U.S. science and engineering (S&E) research and education community, the Board serves as an advisory body on S&E issues critical to the Nation. Board members serve six-year terms with staggered appointments. They are eminent researchers with records of distinguished service in multiple sectors who "provide representation of the views of scientific and engineering leaders in all areas of the Nation."

The Board convenes at least four formally scheduled public meetings per year, with additional meetings as needed, to review and approve major NSF awards; consult with the Director on new programs; oversee and provide policy direction and strategic guidance 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 nationwide. 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 are determined through requests from Congress or the President, and as the Board identifies in consultation with the community and NSF management. Recent NSB reports have examined the macroscale changes to the global and U.S. S&E landscape, the skilled technical workforce, and our dependence on foreign S&E talent.

Recognizing the imminent threat that the People's Republic of China's S&E investments pose to U.S. S&E leadership and the growing share of U.S. basic research funded by industry, NSB is focused on renewing NSF and American S&E to respond to this changed S&E landscape and ensure America's global scientific and technological leadership in years ahead.¹ In its NSF-facing role, NSB is focused on fostering a nimble, results-oriented, next generation NSF that responds to national priorities (including AI, Quantum, and biotechnology), helps the nation avoid technological surprise, and complements other federal and non-government investments. NSB is focused on implementing the findings of its recent reexamination of NSF's merit review policies, especially as they relate to strengthening the agency's focus on the societal benefits of NSF-supported research. In its national S&E advisory role, NSB is exploring new models to collaborate across sectors to optimize U.S. R&D and educate domestic STEM talent with an eye toward the approaches and institutions needed to ensure a golden era of U.S. leadership.

Structure

The Board has several standing committees 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, two of whom are the NSB Chair and Vice-Chair. The Committee has been given the authority by the Board to approve awards in the rare instances when immediate action is required between Board meetings.

¹ www.nsf.gov/nsb/publications/2024/changedlandscape.pdf

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 (OIG) 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 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. EE also reviews nominations for two awards established by the Board: the Vannevar Bush Award and the Science and Society Award.

Ongoing activities of the Board include reviewing and making recommendations on:

- Large awards, MREFC projects, and other proposals, as needed;
- NSF's Management Response to the OIG 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;
- Inclusion of new projects requiring funding under the MREFC Account;
- NSF's financial management reports; and
- NSF's strategic plan and longer-term budget plans, including NSF's research infrastructure portfolio.

Financial Discussion

This FY 2026 Submission will enable the NSB to fulfill its statutory governance responsibilities including oversight, and to respond to Administration priorities and Congressional requests.

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

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024	FY 2025 (TBD)	FY 2026 Request	Change over	
	Current Plan			FY 2024 Amount	Current Plan Percent
Personnel Compensation & Benefits	\$3,800		\$2,889	-\$911	-24.0%
Staff Development & Training	21		0	-21	-100.0%
Advisory & Assistance Services	991		32	-959	-96.8%
Travel & Transportation of Persons	250		74	-176	-70.4%
Communications, Supplies, & Equipment	25		2	-23	-92.0%
Representation Costs	3		3	-	0.0%
Total	\$5,090		\$3,000	-\$2,090	-41.1%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	18		13	-5.00	-28%

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

Personnel Compensation and Benefits

The Board's FY 2026 Submission allows the NSBO to maintain a core of full-time policy, communications, administrative, and legal staff. In addition to providing institutional memory for the Board, the NSBO 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 provide operational and administrative support that are essential for the Board to fulfill its mission.

The Submission includes reduced staffing levels; reflects planned increases in NSBO staff pay; and assumes two in-person Board meetings in FY 2026. This staffing level will enable the NSBO to continue to support the NSB.

Other Operating Expenses

The Staff Development and Training budget line is eliminated.

The Board's Advisory and Assistance Services budget line supports the Administration's priorities, including resources needed to produce policy products related to the Congressionally mandated *Indicators 2026* and transcription services necessary for compliance with the *Government in the Sunshine Act*.

The NSB's Travel and Transportation of Persons budget line primarily covers costs related to Board member travel to NSF headquarters for two annual meetings.

The Communications, Supplies, and Equipment budget line funds a minimal purchase of essential office supplies.

The Submission sets aside funds that the NSB will use, if necessary, to cover costs associated with reception and representation activities connected to official NSF business, per GAO guidance.