

## STEM Education Highlights from the Administration's 2008 Budget Proposal

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On Monday, February 5, President Bush submitted his budget request for the fiscal year 2008. The budget proposal includes \$56 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Education which is nearly identical to the Continuing Resolution that was passed for the 2007 Budget. There are shifts in program funding in the Administration's proposal which would eliminate some 44 programs totaling \$2.2 billion and reallocating those funds to new programs or increases in existing programs.

This year the proposed budget would allocate \$365 million for the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) targeting improvement in science and mathematics education primarily.

**Math Now** would be funded at \$250 million. This equates to \$125 million each for each of the elementary and secondary school components of the program.

**AP/IB Expansion** would receive \$122 million, up more than \$90 million over the 2007 Budget. The program would fund programs to train more teachers to deliver AP and IB courses in an effort to increase rigor in math and science courses.

**Adjunct Teacher Corps** would receive \$25 million to bring STEM professionals into the classroom to augment instruction in secondary schools.

The Administration's proposal would fund the Math and Science Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Education at the same level as 2007, \$182 million. This would be the third year of flat funding for the program.

The FY 2008 budget would also require science to be included in the states' Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations under NCLB. If approved this would require states to include the results of science assessments as soon as the 2008-2009 academic year. The proposal targets 100% proficiency in science by 2020.

The National Science Foundation budget is up \$409 million, or 6.8%, over the current 2007 level. While this increase tracks well with the President's call under the American Competitiveness Initiative to increase the federal investment in research, it also reflects an increase of \$34.4 million to the NSF Education and Human Resources Budget.

**Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings (DRL)** budget will increase by \$750 million. Primarily this budget increase is for program evaluation activities

**Under Graduate Education (DUE)** is targeted for an increase of \$13.42 million. Increases are included for programs like the Robert Noyce Scholarship program and STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP). The NSF Math Science Partnership program

is found in the DUE office and it is level funded for this year. However, because there are MSP programs which have completed their available funding there will be about \$30 million available this year for new MSP programs at NSF.

**Graduate Education (DGE)** will see an increase of nearly \$9 million over the 2007 Budget request with most of this money going to support an additional 200 graduate students. Both IGERT and the GK-12 programs are level funded in this years budget request

In addition to these key areas of STEM education funding there are other sources in various Federal Agencies including undergraduate and graduate fellowships at the Department of Energy and NASA. There are also programs to strengthen the core knowledge of teachers through internships and professional development programs at agencies like DOE, NASA, NOAA, and others. Both NOAA and DOE provide funding for scientific competitions such as the Science Bowl and the Oceans Bowl and NASA funds the Explorer Schools program to support the STEM education efforts at high need schools. All of these programs continue to be supported in this year's budget request.