

FY2015 President's Budget Request

NOAA's STEM Education Investments

Overview¹

The FY15 President's Budget proposes a fresh reorganization of Federal STEM education programs to **enable more strategic investment in STEM education** and **more critical evaluation of outcomes**. This proposal **reduces fragmentation** of STEM education programs across Government, and **focuses on efforts around the five key areas identified by the Federal STEM Education 5-Year Strategic Plan**: K-12 instruction; undergraduate education; graduate education; broadening participation in STEM education and careers by women and minorities traditionally underrepresented in these fields; and education activities that typically take place outside the classroom.

The President's 2015 Budget maintains a strong commitment to STEM education and **supports the core principles of the 2014 Budget proposal** and the goals of the Five-Year Strategic Plan, while **making important changes that reflect valuable input from the STEM education community**. This means:

- The Administration is **not requesting a transfer of funding between agencies**. As a result, some agencies have had a portion of their STEM education funds partially restored compared to the 2014 Budget proposal. This means, for example, that **funding is provided** to NASA, NIH, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration **to ensure that the K-12 STEM education community can take advantage of these agencies' respective areas of expertise**.
- Agencies will **focus on internal consolidations and eliminations, while funding their most effective programs**. As a result, the 2015 Budget continues to reduce fragmentation, building on the substantial number of internal consolidations and eliminations that agencies began implementing in 2013 and 2014.
- Agencies will coordinate their STEM education investments through **implementation of the Federal STEM Education Five-Year Strategic Plan**, looking for opportunities to build the evidence base, share what works, and leverage each other's expertise and resources. Federal agencies, working together through the Committee on STEM Education (CoSTEM), have convened working groups focused on each of the five priority areas identified in the Five-Year Strategic Plan, and are **working to develop joint pilot projects, joint administration of programs, and common data-collection strategies**. A recent example is NASA's partnership with Department of Education's 21st Century Learning Centers program, and the Department of Education's and NSF's common guidelines for education research.
- To support these and related activities, **the Budget provides tangible support for the work agencies are doing to implement the Five-Year Strategic Plan, with a focus on building and using evidence-based practices and developing new interagency models for leveraging assets and expertise**.

¹ Excerpt from the Office of Science and Technology Policy Fact Sheet: Preparing Americans with STEM Skills
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/fy_2015_stem_ed.pdf

Programs Proposed for Termination in FY15 Proposal²

- Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program* *page NOS-75*
- Teacher at Sea Program* *page NMFS-56*
- Sea Grant STEM education activities including all state Sea Grant Program STEM activities and the Sea Grant/National Marine Fisheries Service Graduate Fellowship Program* *page OAR-147*
- Ocean Exploration and Research STEM education activities* *page OAR-156*
- Bay Watershed Education and Training Program** *page PS-29*
- Competitive Education Grants** *page PS-31*

**Proposed to be terminated, but funds stay within the home office to be redirected to other activities.*

***Proposed to be terminated, resulting in a funding decrease for the home office as a whole.*

Current Status of Programs Proposed for Termination in FY14 Proposal

- The **Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program**'s 2014 scholarship applications are currently under review.
- The **Teacher at Sea Program** recently selected and announced their cohort for the 2014 field season.
- The **National Sea Grant Program** is focusing on environmental literacy and workforce development as part of their 2014-17 strategic plan.
- The **Ocean Exploration and Research Education Program** is planning education programs around the 2014 explorations.
- 2014 funding opportunities for the **Bay Watershed Education and Training Program** have closed and are under review.
- Multiple new **Competitive Education Grants** awards will be made in 2014.

² Details can be found in NOAA's Fiscal Year 2015 Congressional Justification
<http://www.osec.doc.gov/bmi/budget/FY15CJ/NOAAFY15CJ.pdf>