DIRECTORATE FOR STEM EDUCATION (EDU)

EDU Funding
(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2024 Current Plan	FY 2025 (TBD)	FY 2026 Request	Change over FY 2024 Current Plan Amount	Change over FY 2024 Current Plan Percent
Total	**$1,172.00**		**$288.43**	**-$883.57**	**-75.4%**
Research	512.10		110.32	-401.78	-78.5%
Education	659.90		178.11	-481.79	-73.0%

EDU's work closely aligns with the Administration's priorities of building a workforce for the needs of industries today and in the future, in order to strengthen the economy and maintain global competitiveness in emerging technologies. Both STEM education and STEM education research play a central role in advancing excellence in U.S. STEM education at all levels and in all settings, supporting preK-12 students and teachers, reskilling/upskilling of adult learners, learning at institutions of higher education, and STEM learning for the American public. This support encourages the development of a well-prepared workforce and a well-informed citizenry.

In FY 2026, EDU will continue to support the translation of research findings into practical STEM education applications through investments in STEM education R&D, which supports critical technologies that fuel economic growth and bolster national security, including:

Artificial Intelligence (AI)
EDU supports fellowships, scholarships, research, and workforce development opportunities across all learning settings in two AI fields: 1) AI in Education, which uses AI to enhance teaching and learning, and 2) AI Education, which prepares the workforce for the AI-driven economy. EDU funds research and development of AI-enabled pedagogy and tools that support personalized learning, teacher effectiveness, and student engagement, as well as curriculum innovations and research experiences that integrate AI with domain knowledge in cybersecurity, energy, and manufacturing. EDU supports the April 2025 E.O. on Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth.

Quantum Information Science and Engineering (QISE)
EDU supports efforts to promote awareness, understanding, and development of skilled professionals in QISE. By its very nature, QISE requires innovations and collaborations across multiple STEM fields. These investments contribute to the Nation's understanding of the potential benefits of QISE research and shape the development of a cadre of preK-12 educators who will provide instruction in QISE and related topics in ways that will have a positive impact on students' STEM interests and career choices.

Biotechnology and Nuclear Sciences
EDU's investments in STEM education at all levels better prepare students to enter careers in biotechnology or nuclear fields, working to expand and grow the workforce to support the nation's leadership in the biotechnology and nuclear industries and strengthen U.S. national security and global competitiveness. For example, EDU funding helps to prepare graduate students to conduct research in convergent areas and acquire skills that allow them to succeed in school and in the workforce.

H-1B NONIMMIGRANT PETITIONER FEES

In FY 2026, H-1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Fees are projected to be $150.46 million.

H-1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Fees Funding

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2024 Current Plan	FY 2025 (TBD)	FY 2026 Request	Change over FY 2024 Current Plan Amount	Change over FY 2024 Current Plan Percent
H-1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Fees Funding	$138.93		$150.46	$11.53	8.3%

Beginning in FY 1999, Title IV of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act (ACWIA) of 1998 (P.L. 105-277) established an H-1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Account in the general fund of the U.S. Treasury for fees collected for each petition for alien nonimmigrant status. The Congressional statute requires that a prescribed percentage of funds in the account be made available to NSF for scholarships to low-income STEM students; grants for mathematics, engineering, or science enrichment courses; and systemic reform activities. In FY 2005, Public Law 108-447 reauthorized H-1B funding. NSF was provided with 40 percent of the total H-1B receipts collected. Thirty percent of H-1B receipts (75 percent of the receipts that NSF receives) are to be used for a low-income scholarship program, NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM). Ten percent of receipts (25 percent of the receipts that NSF receives) are designated for support of private-public partnerships in K-12 education through Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST). NSF will work to ensure that these programs are in alignment with Administration policies and executive actions.

H-1B Financial Activities from FY 2015 - FY 2024

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Receipts	**$143.00**	**$138.80**	**$141.07**	**$155.99**	**$156.72**	**$153.03**	**$213.50**	**$189.94**	**$134.94**	**$158.87**
Annual receipts due to NSF							*$153.50*			
DOL 2020 temporary rescission to NSF							*$60.00*			
Unobligated Balance start of year	**$111.39**	**$116.02**	**$74.63**	**$96.86**	**$64.68**	**$77.47**	**$124.67**	**$141.77**	**$51.14**	**$80.04**
Appropriation Previously unavailable (Sequestered)	**$9.54**	**$7.30**	**$6.80**	**$9.73**	**$10.30**	**$9.72**	**$9.03**	**$8.75**	**$10.83**	**$7.69**
Appropriation Currently unavailable (Sequestered)	**-$7.30**	**-$6.80**	**-$9.73**	**-$10.30**	**-$9.72**	**-$9.03**	**-$8.75**	**-$10.83**	**-$7.69**	**-$9.06**
Rescission							**-$60.00**			
Obligations incurred:										
Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	109.34	140.54	84.38	156.40	114.76	79.91	94.70	243.69	83.99	75.67
Private-Public Partnership in K-12[1]	29.83	44.35	35.11	35.86	34.24	34.87	51.81	34.79	31.98	29.65
Total Obligations	**$139.17**	**$184.89**	**$119.49**	**$192.26**	**$149.00**	**$114.78**	**$146.51**	**$278.47**	**$115.97**	**$105.32**
Unallocated Recoveries	4.95	1.60	3.58	4.66	4.49	8.26	5.30	-0.01	6.79	9.32
Unobligated Balance end of year	**$122.41**	**$72.03**	**$96.86**	**$64.68**	**$77.47**	**$124.67**	**$137.24**	**$51.15**	**$80.04**	**$141.56**

[1] P.L. 108-447 directs that 10 percent of the H-1B Petitioner funds go toward K-12 activities involving private-public partnerships in a range of areas such as materials development, student externships, math and science teacher professional development, etc.