



NASA inspires the next generation of explorers.

THEMES

---



**Education Programs**

# EDUCATION

**PURPOSE**

---

To develop the next generation of explorers, NASA must do its part to inspire and motivate students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. NASA's mission to understand and explore depends upon educated, motivated people with the ingenuity to invent tools and solve problems and the courage to always ask the next question. It is not enough to depend on the excitement generated by our images; NASA must capitalize on that interest to provide meaningful education programs that will benefit the Agency and the Nation. To meet this challenge, education has become a core part of NASA's mission, and education programs are an integral part of every major NASA activity. To ensure a pipeline of highly trained people to meet mission requirements, NASA must motivate students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; provide educators with unique teaching tools and compelling teaching experiences; ensure that public resources are invested wisely; and fully engage minority and underrepresented students, educators, and researchers in NASA's education programs. The Education Enterprise will strive to reach every young person in the Nation to inspire the next generation of scientists, inventors, technicians, and explorers.

## Enterprise: Education

### THEME DISTRIBUTION

Budget Authority (\$ in millions)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Education Programs	198.6	226.3	168.5
Total	198.6	226.3	168.5

Note: For all formats, the FY 2003 column reflects the FY 2003 Congressional Operating Plan, dated 9/04/03. The FY 2004 column reflects the FY 2004 Conference committee report. The FY 2005 column represents the FY 2005 President's Budget Submit.

Indicates budget numbers in full cost

### Education Programs

The Education Enterprise will provide unique teaching and learning experiences, as only NASA can, through the Agency's research and flight missions. Students and educators will be able to work with NASA and university scientists to use real data to study Earth, explore Mars, and conduct scientific investigations. They will work with our engineers to learn what it takes to develop the new technology required to reach the farthest regions of the solar system and to live and work in space. It is important that the next generation of explorers represents the full spectrum of the U.S. population, including minority students and those from low-income families. To ensure the diversity in NASA's workforce, the Education Enterprise's programs pay particular attention to under-represented groups. NASA Education will support the Nation's universities to educate more students in science and engineering by providing meaningful research and internship opportunities for qualified students, plus a roadmap for students to seek NASA careers.

### OVERALL BUDGET

The FY 2005 request is \$168.5 million, a \$57.8 million (or 26 percent) decrease from the FY 2004 President's Request (as amended by likely enacted Conference committee report):

- \$77.7 million is requested for education programs, including the continuation of pipeline programs for students at all educational levels and the continuation of the Space Grant and EPSCOR programs, providing a national link with the higher education community.
- \$90.8 million is requested for minority university research and education, including funding opportunities for minority institutions to expand NASA's scientific and technical base through partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU), and Other Minority Universities (OMUs).
- Another estimated \$70 million in education-related funding is managed by the NASA scientific and technical Enterprises, in coordination with the Education Enterprise.

### PATHFINDER INITIATIVES

The FY 2005 request includes \$27.4 million to continue initiatives begun in FY 2003 or FY 2004:

- \$2.1 million is requested for the Educator Astronaut program, which will select teachers and transport them into space to inspire and motivate students.
- \$13.7 million is requested for the NASA Explorer Schools program, which will provide target middle schools with a customized and sustained learning environment using NASA's most recent discoveries and latest technologies to encourage greater interest in science and engineering careers.
- \$9.5 million is requested for the Science and Technology Scholarship program that will link scholarship with service at NASA Centers and help NASA better attract top students into its workforce.
- \$2.1 million is requested for Explorer Institutes, NASA's direct link with the informal education community (science centers, museums, planetaria, and other informal education institutions) through openly competed grants.