



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

August 16, 2000

**H.R. 4271**  
**National Science Education Act**  
*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on July 26, 2000*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 4271 would authorize funding for programs to enhance math and science education, particularly in elementary and secondary schools. Most of the programs would be administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF), including grants for master teachers and other professional development efforts, matching funds for university-based centers for educational technologies, and initiatives aimed at increasing the number of girls pursuing scientific studies. The bill also would direct the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to coordinate federal math and science education programs and would authorize funding for studies by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4271 would cost a total of \$299 million over the 2001-2005 period. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 4271 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4271 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005

**CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Estimated Authorization Level	112	100	100	15	15
Estimated Outlays	16	66	91	82	44

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow trends similar to those of existing education programs at NSF. The estimated authorization levels reflect the \$85 million specified in H.R. 4271 for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2003 for various programs at NSF. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$11 million, which CBO assumes would be available in 2001, for a pilot program to encourage women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to complete science and technology programs at certain community colleges. Based on information from NSF, CBO expects that about 10 educational technology centers would be established as a result of this legislation and that the federal share of their costs would average \$10 million a year. Finally, we estimate that NSF would spend about \$4 million annually for programs targeted to girls and that the NAS and OSTP would spend a total of \$2 million in 2001 for the studies and policy functions required by the bill.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 4271 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would benefit state and local governments, including local school districts and public universities, by authorizing appropriations to NSF for grant programs designed to improve science education. Any costs incurred by intergovernmental entities to participate in grant programs would be voluntary.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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