

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

A New Opportunity: Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA)



What is a Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA)?

The Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) program allows eligible families to **access \$1 Billion dollars of public funds for private education-related expenses**. Families can use TEFAs for **tuition, fees, instructional materials, tutoring, therapies, transportation, and technology**.

When Does the Program Start?

The program begins in the **2026–2027 school year**.

Is My Child Eligible for a TEFA?

Yes, every child in Texas who is a U.S. citizen or legal resident and can attend a Texas public school is eligible to apply! Enrollment will be limited to the \$1 Billion in state program funds.

What if Applications Go Over the \$1 Billion Available?

Priority will go to: 1) Siblings, 2) Students with disabilities from low- and middle-income families, 3) Students from low-income families, 4) Students from middle-income families, 5) Then everyone else.

How Much Can My Child Receive Each Year?

1) \$10,474 per student enrolled in an accredited private school, **2) Up to \$30,000** for students with disabilities, **3) \$2,000 for students** not in an accredited private school to use on qualifying expenses.

Which Schools, Programs and Services Can I Use TEFA Money for?

Your TEFA funds can be used for: 1) Private school tuition and fees at participating private schools or private child care providers that meet program standards, **2) Online education programs, 3) Industry credential programs, 4) Private tutors and educational therapists, 5) Instructional materials and technology, 6) Transportation costs.**

How and When Can I Apply? When Will I Find Out if My Child Is Accepted?

You can access the application through the **Best Place for Students®** website at **bestplace4students.com**. Applications are open from **February 4th – March 17th, 2026**. Once accepted, you will receive electronic access to manage your child's TEFA account. It's that easy – **and there is no fee to apply!**

If I Use a TEFA, Does My Child Have to Take the STAAR Test?

No, students are NOT required to take the STAAR test. Private schools are already required to give their students a nationally norm-referenced test each year in reading and math.

If I Stay at My Public School will I Still be Eligible for the TEFA?

No, you will only be eligible if you are not attending a traditional public school or public charter school.

What grades are included?

Pre-K–12. However, Pre-K students must qualify for free Pre-K to use ESA funds.

