

Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA)

20 Questions Parents Are Asking

1. What is TEFA?

A Texas program allowing families to use state education funds for private school, Christian school, homeschooling, or approved education services.

2. How much funding is available?

About \$10,474 per student each year. Students with special needs may receive up to about \$30,000 depending on services.

3. Who qualifies?

Students who are Texas residents, school-age (K–12), and eligible to attend school in the United States.

4. Do both parents have to be U.S. citizens?

No. Both parents do not have to be citizens.

5. Does the child have to be a U.S. citizen?

The student must be legally eligible to attend school in the U.S. and reside in Texas.

6. Who completes the application?

One parent or legal guardian completes the application.

7. What if parents are divorced?

Usually the parent with primary custody or educational decision authority should apply.

8. When is the application deadline?

March 31 at 11:59 PM (Central Time).

9. When will families know if they are approved?

The state expects approval notifications in April.

10. How many students will receive funding?

Approximately 100,000 Texas students in the first year.

11. Can funds be used at Christian schools?

Yes. TEFA funds may be used at participating private and Christian schools.

12. Can TEFA be used for homeschooling?

Yes. Funds may be used for curriculum, tutoring, online programs, and approved services.

13. Do parents receive the money directly?

No. Funds are placed in a state-managed education account.

14. How are schools paid?

Parents authorize payments from their TEFA account directly to the school.

15. What documents are required?

Usually proof of Texas residency, identification, and two pages of a recent tax return.

16. How long does the application take?

Most families complete it in 15–20 minutes.

17. Can families apply if their child attends public school now?

Yes. Many families apply while still enrolled in public school.

18. Can families apply if their child already attends private school?

Yes. Current private school students may apply.

19. Can families change their mind later?

Yes. Applying does not obligate you to use the program.

20. Should families apply even if unsure?

Yes. Applying keeps the option open for additional education choices.

Apply Here: <https://educationfreedom.texas.gov>

State Help Line: (737) 379-2362 — Toll Free