



## **Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA)**

*Parent Application Guide | 2026-2027 School Year*



**TEXAS EDUCATION  
FREEDOM ACCOUNTS**

*Freedom to learn your way.*

### **What is TEFA?**

The Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) is a state program that provides eligible families funding to help support educational expenses, including private school tuition.

### **Key Dates**

- Applications Open: February 4, 2026
- Applications Close: March 17, 2026
- Families Notified: Beginning April 6, 2026
- Program Applies To: 2026–2027 school year

### **Who Should Apply?**

All families should apply, even if you do not expect to qualify this first year.

Not all families will receive funding in year one, but applying:

- Ensures your family is considered if selected
- Helps prepare for future years as eligibility expands
- May be required for some forms of school-based financial support (if applicable)

### **How to Apply**

#### **Step 1: Apply Online**

Apply at: [educationfreedom.texas.gov](https://educationfreedom.texas.gov) (TEFA Parent Application Portal opens February 4, 2026)

#### **Step 2: Upload Documents (if requested)**

If eligibility cannot be verified automatically, the TEFA portal will prompt you to upload documents.

#### **Step 3: Watch for Notifications**

After the application window closes, the state will notify families regarding eligibility and selection.



## What You'll Need

Have these ready before you apply:

### Parent & Student Information

- Parent SSN or ITIN
- Child SSN (if available)

### Tax Documentation

- 2024 or 2025 Form 1040

### Texas Residency

- Texas Driver's License or Texas State ID *(If the state cannot verify residency automatically, you may need to upload one of the following: utility bill, lease agreement, mortgage statement, or voter registration certificate.)*

### Citizenship/Lawful Status (if needed)

If a child's status cannot be verified automatically, you may be asked for documentation such as:

- Birth certificate (or report of birth abroad)
- Certificate of naturalization/citizenship
- Other lawful admission documentation

## Students With Disabilities (If Applicable)

Families may qualify for additional TEFA funding if:

- A Texas IEP is on file with TEA
- OR a TEFA disability certification form is completed (if requested)

If your child has an IEP, it must be on file with the state by March 17, 2026 to be considered under disability eligibility.

## Important Notes

- TEFA is not first-come, first-served
- If applications exceed funding, selection may be determined through a lottery process
- Applying does not change your enrollment status at school

## Need Help?

Our team is here to support you with general guidance and reminders.

Contact: **Jennifer Kelsey** [jkelsey@summiteagles.org](mailto:jkelsey@summiteagles.org)

*Our mission is to partner with families to empower students to impact the world for Jesus Christ.  
Our vision is to graduate empowered leaders who impact the world.*