



**FEB 4, 2026**  
Applications open

**MARCH 17, 2026**  
Application Close Date

# A GUIDE TO TEFA FOR FAMILIES



Senate Bill 2 established TEFA to help families access funds for approved educational expenses starting in 2026–27. With final rules released on November 25, 2025, families now have clarity on how the program will work.

## ELIGIBILITY

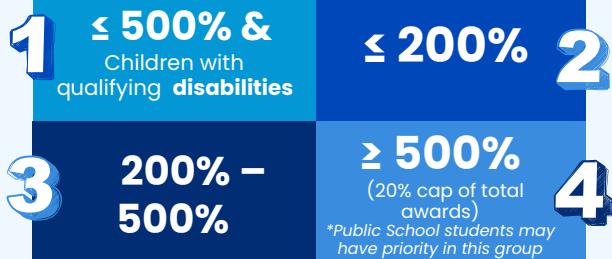
Any Texas resident **eligible for public school (PK-12)** may apply.

This includes:

- Children entering PK3–PK4 who meet Texas eligibility
- Students currently in public, private, or homeschool settings
- Students with TEFA qualifying disabilities

*There is no income limit to apply, but awards are offered based on State priority groups.*

## PRIORITY GROUPS BASED ON THE FPL (FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL)



## FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS

Household Size	200% of FPG Yearly Income	500% of FPG Yearly Income
<b>2</b>	\$42,300	\$105,750
<b>3</b>	\$53,300	\$133,250
<b>4</b>	\$64,300	\$160,750
<b>5</b>	\$75,300	\$188,250
<b>6</b>	\$83,920	\$215,750
<b>7</b>	\$108,300	\$270,750

## ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Tuition/ Fees	Books/ Materials	Tutoring	Therapies	Meals	Assessments	Technology	Transportation
Participating Private Schools			Therapies not covered by government or private insurance.	Provided at school for a fee		10% Cap	Commercial Only
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*\*All purchases must be through the TEFA portal from approved providers.*

**\$10,474**

TEFA Funding Amount for the 26-27 School Year

Award per student (85% of public funding).

Additional funding may be awarded based on a student's IEP for disabilities - up to \$30,000.

**PARENT:** As defined by Education Code, §29.351(5), a resident of this state who is a natural or adoptive parent, managing or possessory conservator, legal guardian, custodian, or other person with legal authority to act on behalf of a child.

## PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

**Families must:**

- Use funds only for approved expenses
- Not withdraw cash or request reimbursement
- Keep receipts
- Ensure annual testing (Grades 3–12)
- Report public school enrollment
- Follow all TEFA rules

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Proof of Residency
  - Texas ID/driver's license or, • Lease or mortgage statement or, • Utility bill or, • Voter registration
- 2 Proof of Income
  - Most recent tax return (2024 or 2025)
- 3 Proof of Citizenship
  - Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification number for the parent and, • SSN for the child(ren) or, • Birth Certificate for child(ren)

## WHAT IF FUNDS RUN OUT?

If funds run out, eligible students go on a state waitlist.

If more funds become available, awards may be offered mid-year, prorated, and begin the month after approval.

## STUDENT DOCUMENTS - PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

If your child's Social Security number (SSN) cannot be verified, proof of lawful status may be provided by uploading one of the following documents:

- A report of birth abroad
- A certificate of naturalization
- A certificate of citizenship
- Other official documentation that confirms lawful admission



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# A GUIDE TO TEFA

## PRE-K, Siblings & Students with Disabilities



### PRIORITY GROUP #1

BASED ON THE FPL (FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL)

≤ 500% &

Children with qualifying disabilities

### FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS

Household Size	200% of FPL Yearly Income	500% of FPL Yearly Income
2	\$42,300	\$105,750
3	\$53,300	\$133,250
4	\$64,300	\$160,750
5	\$75,300	\$188,250
6	\$83,920	\$215,750
7	\$108,300	\$270,750

**\$10,474 – \$30,000**

Award per student (85% of public funding).  
Additional IEP-based funding for disabilities – up to \$30,000 total.

### PRE-K ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

PK ages 3–5 qualify if they meet Texas public PK eligibility criteria (emergent bilingual, economically disadvantaged, homeless, military, foster, child of district employee, or Star of Texas).

### TEFA QUALIFYING DISABILITIES EXPLAINED

A student with special needs (Tier 1) is defined as a child age 21 or younger with a disability listed in Texas Education Code §29.003 that requires special services to be adequately or safely educated in a public school. Eligible conditions include Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Deaf or hard of hearing, emotional disability, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, Orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, developmental delay, and noncategorical early childhood.

### SIBLING PRIORITY

Siblings as defined by Education Code, §29.351(9), are: A brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, or a foster brother or sister who is a dependent of the participating parent and has been placed with the participating parent by an authorized placement agency or by judgment, decree, or other order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

### OPTIONAL DOCUMENTATION

For Prioritization Purposes:

- TEFA Disability Certification Form approved by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (only required if the student requires special education services and does not have an official Individualized Education Program (IEP) on file with the Texas Education Agency (TEA)).
- A Texas Individualized Education Program (IEP) or out of state IEP
- A Full Individual & Initial Evaluation (FIE)

For Additional Funding and Prioritization:

- Texas IEP

### IMPORTANT:

A TEFA Disability Certification Form, completed and signed by a licensed professional qualified to certify a child's disability, may be used for prioritization purposes.

However, additional disability-based funding can only be determined if the student has a valid Individualized Education Program (IEP) on file.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

When applications open on the Texas Comptroller website, you will apply and select one approved school. Upon completion, eligibility will be determined. Award notifications are expected to go out the first week of April. If your child is selected, you'll receive instructions to accept the award in the TEFA portal. Your child's TEFA account is then created so you can choose approved schools, providers, and services.

