



FEB 4TH 2026

Applications open

MID MARCH 2026

Expected 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)

1	≤ 500% + Children with disabilities	≤ 200%	2
3	200% – 500%	≥ 500% (20% cap of total awards) <small>*Public School students may have priority in this group</small>	4

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS

Household Size	200% of FPG Yearly Income	500% of FPG 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

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.

\$10,800*

Award per student (85% of public funding).

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

*TEA currently estimates this amount to be \$10,800, and the final amount will be released in January 2026.

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

Choose **ONE** item from each column

1 Proof of Residency	2 Proof of Citizenship	3 Proof of Income
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lease, mortgage, or utility bill• Texas ID/driver's license• Voter registration• Government agency letter• Notarized affidavit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birth certificate• U.S. passport• Naturalization certificate• DHS documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IRS transcript (if available)• Most recent tax return (2024)• Texas Workforce Commission income data

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.

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. Awarding is expected to go out mid-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.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
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FOR MORE INFORMATION



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 FPG Yearly Income	500% of FPG 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

\$10,800* – \$30,000

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

*TEA currently estimates this amount to be \$10,800, and the final amount will be released in January 2026.

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 visual or auditory impairment, physical disability, intellectual or developmental disability, emotional disturbance, learning disability, autism, speech disability, or traumatic brain injury.

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.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

One of the following documents is needed to prove a child with disabilities:

- A letter verifying the child's eligibility to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or
- A written diagnosis from a licensed physician verifying one of the listed disabilities, or
- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) issued by a Texas public school district or open-enrollment charter school.

IMPORTANT:

A licensed professional evaluation can place your child in the top priority group, but the state can only calculate additional disability-based funding if your child has an IEP.

Families without an IEP will still be reviewed in the disability priority group but may receive the standard ESA funding amount.

