

# TEXAS EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS (TEFA) AT A GLANCE

SCHOOL



## WHAT IS A TEXAS EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS (TEFA)?

The Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) is a new state program that gives families access to funds (\$10,474 per child) to use for approved educational expenses, including Catholic school tuition, uniforms, technology, tutoring and more.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

Any student who is eligible to enroll in a Texas public school may apply. This includes students currently in public, private, or homeschool settings, as well as those entering prekindergarten who meet the Texas public school eligibility requirements for Pre-K. TEFA will be awarded through a lottery process if the number of applications exceeds available funding, so all eligible families are encouraged to submit an application.

## WHEN DOES THE PROGRAM START?

Applications open February 4th, 2026 with funds available for the 2026–2027 school year.

## HOW DO TEFA HELP CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAMILIES?

For many families, tuition costs have been the most significant barrier to Catholic education. With TEFA, the doors to Catholic schools are more open than ever—making an excellent, faith-filled education possible for more children.

## CAN CURRENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAMILIES APPLY?

Yes. If your child is eligible to enroll in a Texas public school, you may apply for an ESA—even if your child is already attending a Catholic school.

## DO I STILL NEED TO APPLY FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE (HOPE FOR THE FUTURE)?

Recognizing that not all families will receive a TEFA award for the upcoming 2026–2027 school year, tuition assistance will continue to be awarded to families who meet eligibility requirements for Hope for the Future (HFF). We know that Hope for the Future does not cover the full amount of tuition, but it is still an integral part of keeping our Catholic schools affordable for more families.

The HFF Application opened on December 1st, with award notifications expected in the Spring. All eligible families should apply, though funds will be reserved for families who do not receive TEFA funding.



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## WHERE CAN I GET HELP WITH THE APPLICATION?

The Department of Catholic Schools – Archdiocese of San Antonio will provide TEFA information sessions, step-by-step guides, and application workshops to help families through the process. Make sure to fill out the QR Code at the bottom to stay connected.

## WHAT ARE THE “PRIORITY GROUPS” FOR FUNDING?

While every eligible family is encouraged to apply, the state has designated priority groups for funding distribution. Here is the breakdown of each funding group:

**TIER 1:** Students with a **disability** (defined by Texas Education Code Sec. 29.003) whose family income is **at or below 500%** of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)

**TIER 2:** Children whose family income is **at or below 200%** of FPG

**TIER 3:** Children whose family income is **between 200% and 500%** of FPG

**TIER 4:** Students from families with income **at or above 500%** of the FPG. Students transferring from public schools will receive priority within this group only, ahead of students currently enrolled in private schools.

## TEFA INCOME GUIDELINES

Number of people in household	200% of Poverty Guidelines Yearly Income	500% of Poverty Guidelines 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



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