



TEXAS EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

MEDIA GUIDE

Program Name: Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA)

Administering Agency: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA)

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Texas Education Freedom Accounts program is a state-administered initiative to expand educational choice for eligible Texas families.

The program puts parents in the driver's seat of their children's education, allowing them to use the funding for eligible education expenses that best support their child's educational needs.

ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS

- Private school tuition and fees
- Educational therapies and services
- Curriculum and instructional materials
- Tutoring or supplemental education services
- Technology (capped at 10%)

ELIGIBILITY & PRIORITIZATION

To be eligible for the program, a child must be:

- A Texas resident (military families can provide orders requiring them to be in Texas during the 2026-27 school year).
- Eligible to attend a public school or enroll in a public school's pre-K or kindergarten program.
- A citizen or national of the United States or lawfully admitted into the United States.

If applications exceed available funding, a lottery will decide which families receive funding.

For the 2026-27 school year, applicants will be prioritized in the lottery as follows:

1. Children with a disability who are members of a household whose total annual income is at or below 500% of the Federal Poverty Level.
2. Children who are members of a household whose total annual income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

3. Children who are members of a household whose total annual income is between 200% and 500% of the Federal Poverty Level.
4. Children who are members of a household whose total annual income is at or above 500% of the Federal Poverty Level. Children who were enrolled in a Texas public school or charter school for at least 90% of the prior school year will be prioritized within this group. Funds for children in this category may not exceed 20 percent of the amount of money appropriated from the program fund for that school year.

If a child is accepted for participation during an application period, any eligible sibling of that child who applies during the same application period is also accepted.

TIMELINE OVERVIEW

- Families submit applications between 9 a.m. CT on Feb. 4 and 11:59 p.m. CT on March 17. This is NOT a first-come, first-served-program. The timing of a family's application will not affect eligibility or prioritization.
- Lottery (if necessary) – late March
- Parents notified of funding – early April
Selected families may opt in, adjust education settings (as permitted), or decline participation.
- Parents and schools confirm school enrollments – summer
- Initial funding distribution deadline (families receive at least 25% of funding) – July 1
- Additional funding distribution deadlines (families receive remaining funding) – October 1 & April 2027

THINGS TO KNOW

- TEFA is expected to be the largest day-one school choice program in U.S. history. This will open new doors and expand opportunities for students and families across Texas.
- Applications open Feb. 4 at 9 a.m. and close March 17 at 11:59 p.m. CT. Parents who apply anytime during the window will be treated the same – so no rush!
- The application process is customer friendly. Families can apply on their mobile phones or devices and get everything submitted in less than 15 minutes.
- Before they apply, families should gather their documents and consult our [Parent Prep Checklist](#).
- The number of students who participate in Year One will depend on who applies, and how much funding they qualify to receive.

KEY NUMBERS

- **\$1 billion:** Amount of funding the Legislature allocated to launch this program.
- **\$10,474:** Funding available to each TEFA student who selects an accredited participating private school.
- **\$30,000:** Maximum funding for a student with a qualifying disability attending an accredited participating private school.
- **\$2,000:** Funding available for students in other nonpublic educational settings, including homeschool.

MEDIA ASSETS

- Toolkit available at educationfreedom.texas.gov/toolkit/.

AGENCY PRESS RELEASES

- **January 28, 2026** – Texas Education Freedom Account Family Applications Open One Week from Today
- **December 22, 2025** – Hundreds of Texas Schools Already Enrolled in Education Freedom Accounts Program
- **November 25, 2025** – Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock Announces Final Rules, Key Dates for Texas Education Freedom Accounts Program
- **October 6, 2025** – Acting Texas Comptroller Announces Texas Education Freedom Accounts Program, Selects Implementation Partner
- **August 22, 2025** – Texas Comptroller’s Office Releases Proposed Rules for Education Savings Account Program

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