



Town East Christian School

210-648-2601 

5866 US Hwy 87 East, San Antonio, TX 78222 

teeagles.org 

“A Christ-centered San Antonio School”

March 2, 2026

Dr. Russell Riggs

President

Kevin L. Stephens

School Administrator

Lisa Gaulke

Office Manager

Betty Davis

High School Counselor

Tressa Ceasor

Elementary Administrator

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

Town East Christian School Families,

Family enrollment in the Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program opened on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 ...

Applications *will* be submitted online at educationfreedom.texas.gov.

The application is mobile-friendly, and most families can complete it in less than 15 minutes. Families *will* have until midnight on March 17, 2026, to apply, and the program *is not* first come, first served. This means that the person who applied at 9:00 AM on February 4th has the exact same chance to receive an account as the person who applies at 11:00 PM on March 17th.

Don't Think You Qualify for TEFA Funds ...? Don't Give Up! Still Apply!!!

Even though you might not qualify for the 1st year criteria, you should apply anyway because every application is a request to legislation to increase funding the next year. The bill requires that funding be increased based on application demand. Many states have gone through the same process and are now funding every family no matter what their income level. Texas will be that state too if we send the message of the number of families who would like to participate through the application process. The application is easy and worth the time to help us grow this program in TEXAS!!! **TOWN EAST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ENCOURAGES EVERYONE [ALL FAMILIES] TO APPLY FOR THE TEXAS EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS (TEFA) PROGRAM!!!** *TECS is diligently working towards accepting TEFA funds; TECS is in the process of being accredited with an appropriate organization to allow our school to accept these valuable funds [we are praying to have this finalized in April 2026 (before the June 2026 school selection date)].*

If more families apply than available funding allows, a lottery will be used, with eligible families prioritized as required by law. Students with disabilities are at the top of the prioritization list. Parents can learn more about prioritization, funding amounts, and program details on the website.

Families are not committed to use TEFA funds at a particular school upon submitting an application. *Families can explore their options and decide what works best for them, ... and more schools and education services will continue to join the program on a rolling basis.*

Enrollment verification will begin in early June, ... and that is when a private school must be selected in order to facilitate payment to that school for the first installment by July 1, 2026.

Funds may be used for a variety of approved education expenses, including private school tuition, homeschooling, tutoring and other qualifying educational services.

Important Dates:

Parent Applications Open February 4th - March 17th

TEFA Funding Notifications to Parents - April 6th

Parents will Enroll in Private School After Funding Notification

School Must Confirm Enrollment in June



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Rules You Need to Know to Apply for TEFA:

1. Application is based on 2024 Tax Status.
2. Applications *are not* first come, first serve.
3. All children in family *should be* on same application to link funding (one gets funded all get funded).
4. If children are on different parent's taxes due to divorce or filing separately, each parent will need to complete an application for the child they claimed on their taxes and the sibling link funding *will not* be available to sibling in this case.
5. Preschool students *could* qualify for TEFA funds if they currently qualify for Texas Free Preschool Program. (Must qualify for one of the criteria listed below) Preschool qualification *does not* provide a higher priority but rather allows the preschool student to enter the priority as all other students through qualification.
6. Students with a qualifying disability for special education services can qualify for priority one and also additional funding up to \$30,000 with an IEP from a public school. (IEP does NOT need to be current. Out of state IEPs can also be used but will need to be upload-ed. Texas IEPs will not be required at the application.)
7. Students with a qualifying disability without an IEP can still qualify for first priority with a doctors diagnosis. A form *will be* required to be signed by a doctor. The state comptroller will be releasing a required form shortly.

TEFA Funds Eligible Expenses Include:

1. School tuition (private school, online schools in TX, and homeschool)
2. Tutoring
3. Uniforms
4. School breakfast and lunch at private schools
5. Online education programs
6. Therapies for students with special needs
7. Textbooks or other instructional materials

In order to use TEFA funds, *the vendor and school must be an approved recipient of TEFA funds.*

Parents have the freedom to spend the funding on any of the above expenses. They can also choose to save a portion of the funding and hold it for the next year.

Parents will still be responsible for the tuition or expenses not covered at the school by the TEFA funding.

Rules Regarding TEFA Funding:

Funding Amount for Students Without Disabilities \$10,474, with Disability up to \$30,000 more, Homeschool \$2000 ...

1. Those who receive funding will be guaranteed funding until 12th grade and will not have to apply again.
2. If a child is funded, all siblings on application with funded child will also be automatically funded.

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3. Those who aren't funded will automatically go on a waiting list for funding potential for that same year.
4. Funding notifications will happen first to notify those who are funded and then those who aren't and will be on the waiting list.
5. Those who do not get funding in 1st year of program will have to reapply each year until they are funded.
6. TEFA funding distribution will be controlled by parents but will not be given to families to put into their bank, but will be allotted to them through a funding facilitation program. TEFA funding will not increase income of families.
7. Parents have the option to use the money for Tuition, Educational Resources from Approved Vendor, Tutoring, educational supports based on educational needs of students.
8. TEFA funding *may not* be used for Athletic fees/programs. Field trips must be directly linked to educational needs.
9. If a family chooses to go back to public education at any time, they must notify Odyssey, who is the facilitator of the program.
10. If a family determines they cannot find a private school after funding and decides to go back to public school, a family on the wait list will then be funded.

Please note, a TECS staff member will be available to assist with the application process on March 5th (Thursday), March 6th (Friday), March 16th (Monday), and March 17th (Tuesday). Please call the TECS office at (210)648-2601 to schedule an appointment.

Thank You,

Kevin L. Stephens
TECS Administrator

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