



Freedom to learn your way.

Education Savings Accounts can help pay for early education!

An overview provided by Early Ed Canary

What is the Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) program?

TEFA will give students money in special accounts that can be used for school needs. Families can use the money to help pay for preschool, private school, microschools, homeschooling, or tutoring.

Who can apply?

- Students must live in Texas.
- Students must be U.S. citizens or allowed to live in the U.S.
- All K-12 students can apply, no matter their family's income.
- Pre-K students must be eligible for free Pre-K in Texas (see back for eligibility).

Priority goes to students with disabilities, students from low-income families, and siblings

How much money is provided per student?

- Most students will get \$10,474.
- Students with disabilities may get up to \$30,000, based on their learning plan (IEP).
- Homeschool students can get up to \$2,000.
- Students do not need to reapply each year.
- Any unused money will roll over.

Where can my child enroll?

Students can sign up for TEFA-approved private schools, preschools or approved child care programs, small learning groups called microschools, or homeschool.

Find an approved school using the TEFA school finder at: finder.educationfreedom.texas.gov

Important Dates

February 4 - March 17, 2026

Family application window

April, 2026

Families notified of selection

July 1, 2026

Education marketplace opens for the 2026-2027 school year

The application will be posted here:

educationfreedom.texas.gov



Pre-K Eligibility

Children who will be aged 3 to 5 by September 1st, 2026 are only eligible to apply for TEFA if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Eligible to participate in the free and reduced-price lunch program;
- Unable to speak and comprehend English;
- Experiencing homelessness* or has ever been enrolled in foster care;
- A child of an active-duty member of the U.S. military;
- A child of a member of the U.S. military who was injured or killed in the line of duty;
- A child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award as: a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical first responder; or
- A child of a teacher at a public school that offers a pre-k class.

**Homelessness is defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as living in any of the following situations: doubled-up with other people; homeless shelter; hotel/motel or campground; or car, park, empty building, bus, or train station.*

Application Checklist

All Students Need

- ☐ Social Security Number (SSN), or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number for parent.
- ☐ SSN for the child, or other proof of lawful status.
- ☐ Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (2024 or 2025).
- ☐ Texas Driver's license number, state ID number, or other proof of residency.
- ☐ For special education funding: Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Additional documentation for pre-k students not qualifying based on income

FOSTER CARE: If the child is or has been enrolled in foster care, they can submit one of the following documents:

- Court order;
- Adoption documents;
- DFPS foster/kindship placement orders;
- Pre-k verification letter; or
- Other valid proof of foster care.

MILITARY: Children of active duty, injured, or killed in the line of duty military members can submit one of the following:

- Statement of service;
- Line of duty determination document;
- Purple Heart orders; or
- Other applicable citations.

Emergent Bilingual / English Learner:

- Completed Home Language Survey

Families should to work with their local school district to complete the Home Language Survey.

Other:

Additional documentation may be required to verify pre-k eligibility before your application is approved. This may include McKinney-Vento housing questionnaire or place-of-employment verification.