



TEFA Informational Meeting

Thursday, 12-11-2025



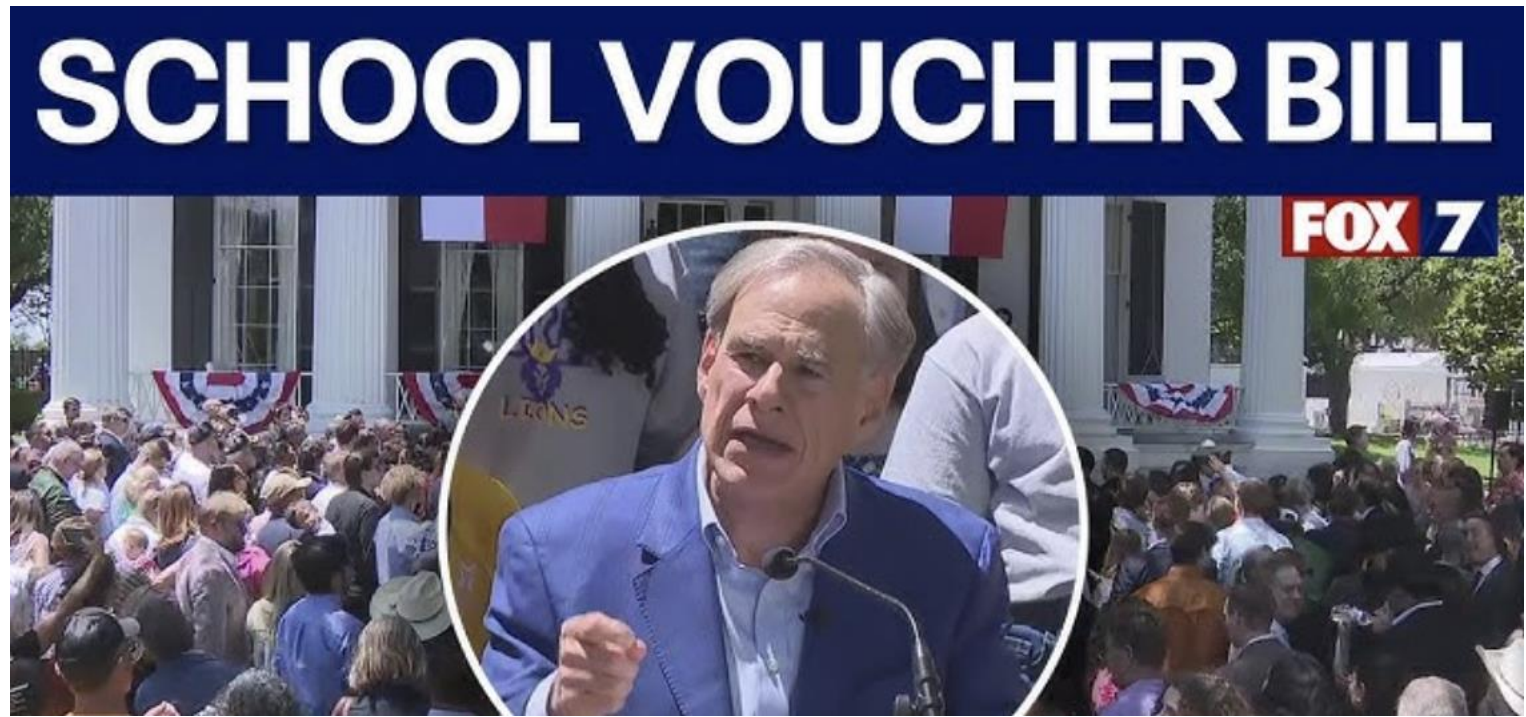


Dr. Bill Hinz

Director of School Ministry

Nomenclature

SENATE BILL 2



- The Texas Legislature has created an Education Savings Account (ESA) program called Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA).
 - TEFA begins in the 2026 – 2027 school year.
- This week, Epiphany will submit the application to be a TEFA-approved school.

What is a **T**exas **E**ducation **F**reedom **A**ccount?

- A TEFA is a state-funded education savings account for eligible K–12 students.
- Digital wallet
- Administered by the *Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts*, and the application/management system will run through an approved vendor portal, *Odyssey*.

How much funding could my child receive?

Final award amounts depend on eligibility category, but current state guidance indicates:

- **Around \$11,000 per year**
 - The exact amount has not been determined
 - Most approved students will fall into this category
- Homeschool students: About \$2,000 per year.
- Students with disabilities: May qualify for up to \$30,000 per year.

Acceptable Fees:

All must be education-related expenses



Definitely Yes: Tuition, application fees, registration fees, uniforms, textbooks & instructional materials, costs related to assessment instruments, private tutors and/or teaching services, educational therapies, computer hardware and software (no more than 10% of total amount allocated), & breakfast and/or lunch at school



Not Confirmed: Sports fees, activity fees, trip fees

Who is eligible, and what are the categories?

- Any Texas K–12 student (U.S. citizen or lawful resident and lives in Texas)
- However, TEFA has limited funding each year. The state will place applicants into 4 categories and award seats in this priority order.
- Once a child is accepted into any category, siblings will also receive funding (through 12th grade). Each year, any unused funds will roll over to the next academic year.

Category 1	Your child is Category 1 if they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a qualifying disability, AND • Your household income is at or below 500% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
Category 2	Your child is Category 2 if your household income is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At or below 200% of the FPL.
Category 3	Your child is Category 3 if your household income is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Above 200% and at or below 500% of the FPL, AND • Your child does not qualify under Category 1
Category 4	Your child is Category 4 if they do not fall into Categories 1-3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No income cap applies.

Category 4 students receive TEFA funds only if funding remains after Categories 1–3 are served.

The Adjusted Gross Income is the amount considered for income levels. [2024 tax return]

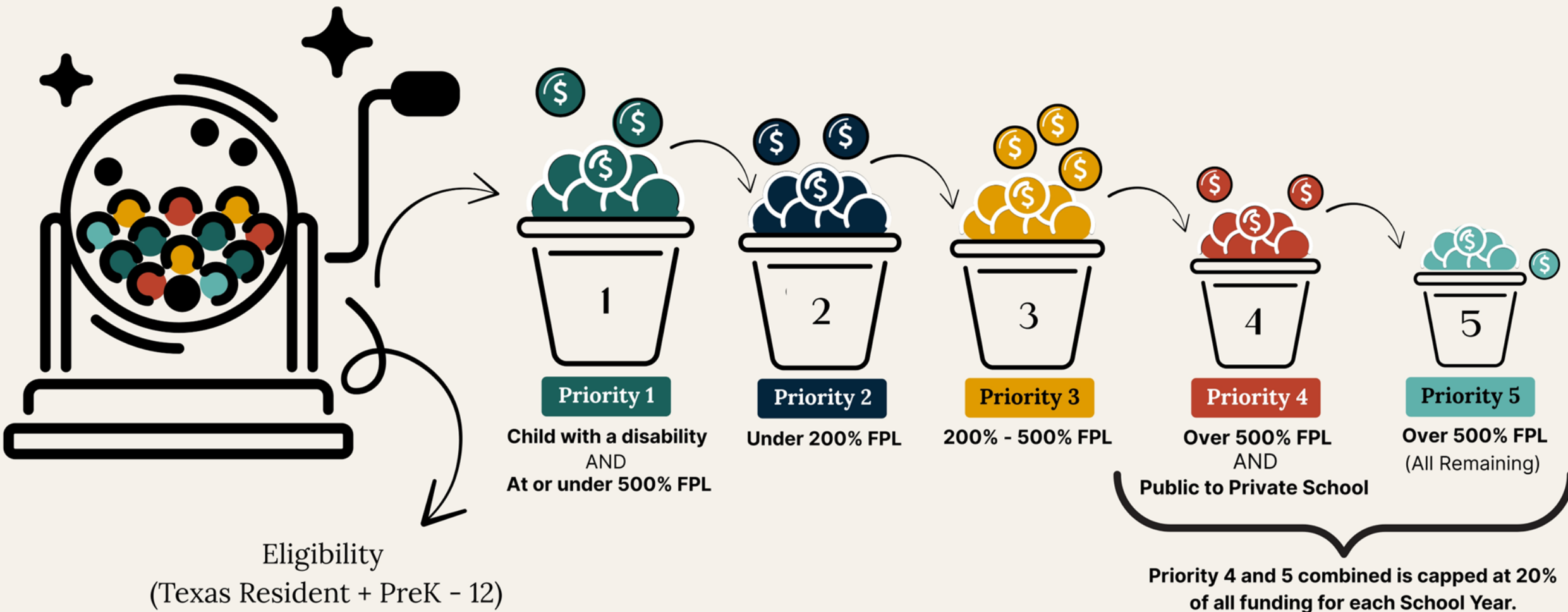
Alternative documents or data will be required for families that have not filed federal tax returns.

Household Number	Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) yearly income	200% of FPG yearly income	500% of FPG yearly income
1	\$15,650	\$31,300	\$78,250
2	\$21, 150	\$42,300	\$105,750
3	\$26,650	\$53,300	\$133,250
4	\$32,150	\$64,300	\$160,750
5	\$37,650	\$75,300	\$188,250
6	\$43,150	\$86,300	\$215,750

TEFA LOTTERY PROCESS



Once the application window closes, each group will be funded based on the prioritization criteria. If there is an oversubscription of applicants, students will be randomized within that priority group, and those students not selected shall be placed on a waitlist.



Special Education Considerations

Diagnoses:

- Physical disability;
- Intellectual or developmental disability;
- Emotional disturbance;
- Learning disability including dyslexia;
- Autism;
- Speech disability; or
- Traumatic brain injury.



IEPs Required for Increased Funding

Families may request evaluations from either the district that the child resides in OR from the district where the private school is located.

The IEP is not time-limited, so it can be from any date.

Out of state IEPs are acceptable.



Pre-K note (3- and 4-year-olds)

TEFA includes support for eligible pre-K children. Eligibility includes children who are, for example: educationally disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch eligible), homeless, English-language learners, military-connected, in foster care, children of *Star of Texas Award* recipients, or children of certain public school teachers.

Key Dates to Keep in Mind

- **Schools may begin applying this week.**
- **Family/student applications open February 4, 2026. [ELS hosting 2 nights in Feb. to assist with application completion]**
- **First deposits into digital wallets are scheduled for July 1, 2026.**

What should families do right now?

- **Gather documents now. Having proof of citizenship and residency ready will make the February application smoother.**
- **If your child has a disability, locate your IEP and/or full individual evaluation (FIE).**
- **Watch for the TEFA application portal link. We will share it as soon as the Comptroller releases the family login page.**

Citizenship

Proof that the child is a citizen or national of the United States or was lawfully admitted into the United States, in a format acceptable to the comptroller, such as a certified copy of one of the following for the child: a birth certificate issued in the United States or one of its territories, a certificate of naturalization, a certificate of citizenship, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a United States passport, or a Permanent Resident Card

Residency

Proof of the child's current residency in this state as established by one of the following documents specified under Education Code, §29.355(a-1): a utility bill, lease or mortgage statement, driver's license or state identification card, voter registration card, letter from a government agency in the United States, or notarized affidavit of residency



QUESTIONS



**Join us at
Epiphany this
Advent Season!!**