

# Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA)



## A new way to make Christ-centered education possible for more Texas families

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the State of Texas will launch Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA), an education savings account program that helps families pay for private school tuition and other educational costs. Bethesda Christian School is preparing to participate so more students can access a Christ-centered, academically strong education.

**Program Start:** 2026-27 school year

### Estimated Funding Amounts:

- Approximately \$10,800 per year for students at approved private schools
- Up to \$30,000 per year for students with disabilities who have an IEP on file
- Up to \$2,000 per year for homeschool students

### Bethesda and TEFA:

- Bethesda is an accredited private Christian School in Texas through ACSI that meets TEFA requirements for private school participation.
- TEFA funds can be used toward Bethesda tuition and approved educational expenses.
- Families can combine TEFA with Bethesda discounts or payment plans.

### What Will Not Change:

- Our mission to prepare students for their God-given purpose.
- Our commitment to education with a biblical worldview.
- Our independence as a private Christian school.
- Our responsibility to maintain Bethesda admissions standards.

### Who Can Apply

TEFA is designed to give Texas parents greater choice in how and where their children are educated. Children are eligible to participate if:

- They are U.S. citizens or legal residents
- They are eligible to attend a Texas public school district, charter school, or pre-k program
- They are Texas residents, including children of active-duty members of the U.S. armed forces

### Priority Order

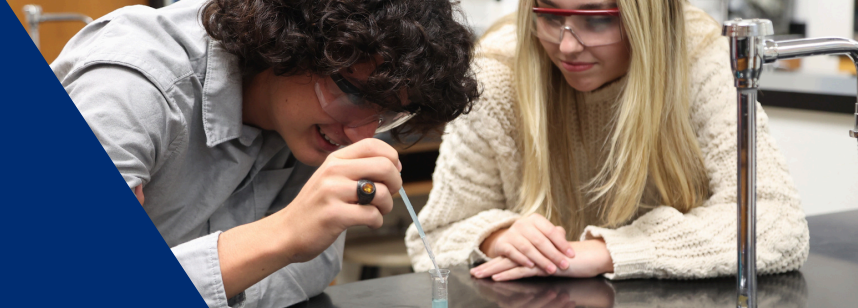
If applications exceed available funding, the state will prioritize:

1. Siblings of children already in the program\*
2. Children with a disability in households at or below 500% of the federal poverty level
3. Children in households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level
4. Children in households between 200% and 500% of the federal poverty level
5. Children in households at or above 500% of the federal poverty level

Click here to [view the TX State Flyer](#)

*\*TEFA will also create a waitlist based on these categories.*

# Frequently Asked Questions



## Special Needs Evaluation

The new Texas Education Freedom Accounts provide priority access to funds for children with special needs. To qualify for these funds, a child must receive an evaluation and an **Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)** before the application deadline for the Texas EFA.

## Will TEFA cover the full cost of Bethesda tuition?

Not always. TEFA funds are estimated at about \$10,800 per year for approved private school students, and Bethesda tuition is higher than that amount. Families can combine TEFA, discounts, and payment plans.

## Should I apply for TEFA even if I am not sure we will receive funding?

Yes. Demand is expected to be high across Texas. If more families apply than funding allows, eligible students will be prioritized and placed on a waitlist according to the state's rules. Applying early gives your family the best opportunity to be included.

## Does Applying for TEFA guarantee a seat at Bethesda?

No. TEFA and Bethesda admissions are two separate processes. Families must still complete Bethesda's enrollment steps. A TEFA award does not automatically reserve a spot at our school.

## Will Bethesda change its Christian curriculum because of TEFA?

No. Bethesda will continue to offer a biblical worldview and Christ-centered teaching. TEFA participation does not change our mission or our statement of faith.

## What documents will I need to apply?

The Texas Education Agency will finalize requirements, but families should be prepared with proof of Texas residency, student's birth certificate, immunization and school records, and documentation of disability if applying for the higher amount.

## What if we apply for TEFA but our funding is delayed or denied?

You can still enroll at Bethesda through our admissions process. TEFA is one financial resource, not the only path. We offer financial aid and several discounts that can be reviewed.

## If my child qualifies for the higher disability amount, can we still attend Bethesda?

Yes, as long as your child meets Bethesda's admissions and support criteria. Students with an IEP on file may receive up to \$30,000 per year in TEFA funding. That amount can be used toward Bethesda tuitions and approved services.

### Disclaimer:

*The information on this page is offered solely for general information purposes. Bethesda Christian School does not administer the Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program and cannot guarantee eligibility, funding, or acceptance into the program. All TEFA policies are governed and determined by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the Texas Education Agency.*

### Next Steps for Families

#### Step 1 - Learn about TEFA

Read the [state flyer](#) and sign up for updates so you are aware of the deadlines and requirements.

#### Step 2 - Connect with Bethesda

Schedule a tour, meet with our team, and decide whether Bethesda is the right fit for your family.

[Schedule a Tour](#) [Bethesda Admissions](#)

#### Step 3 - Prepare to Apply

Gather documents now and be ready to apply for TEFA as soon as the state opens the application window in February 2026.

[Stay Updated](#)

For more information, call **817.581.5131** or visit [bethesdachristianschool.org](https://bethesdachristianschool.org)