TEXAS EDUCATION
FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

PARENT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program will be accepting applications from February 4 through March 17, 2026. All Texas children are eligible to apply if they live in Texas and are a United States citizen or were lawfully admitted into the U.S. To prepare for the TEFA application, parents should gather the following documents.

ALL APPLICANTS NEED

- ○ Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number for the parent.
- ○ SSN for the child.
- ○ Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, for 2024 or 2025.

TEXAS RESIDENCY DOCUMENTS

- ○ Texas Driver's license number or state ID number.

*If your driver's license or state ID number cannot be verified, proof of residency can be established by uploading **one** of the following:*

- ○ utility bill;
- ○ lease agreement;
- ○ mortgage statement; or
- ○ voter registration certificate.

STUDENT DOCUMENTS

*If your child's SSN cannot be verified, proof of lawful status can be established by uploading **one** of the following:*

- ○ birth certificate;
- ○ report of birth abroad;
- ○ certificate of naturalization;
- ○ certificate of citizenship; or
- ○ other official documentation affirming lawful admission.

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS

For Prioritization Purposes:

- ○ TEFA Disability Certification Form approved by the Comptroller (only required if the student requires special needs services and the student does not have an official individualized education program (IEP) on file with TEA). This form will be available in January 2026 on our website;
- ○ Full and Individual Initial Evaluation; or
- ○ Texas IEP or out of state IEP.

For Additional Funding and Prioritization:

- ○ Texas IEP.

Your IEP will be verified using the child's Texas unique student identification number (this can be provided by the student's school district). This number exists if the student has ever been enrolled in a public school or charter school within the state of Texas OR if the student has a registered IEP with the TEA. For the additional funding, an IEP must be on file with TEA by the end of the application period. If you need an IEP, please start that process as soon as possible.

Funding decisions will be made after the close of the application window to allow for priority determinations and will not be made on a first-come, first-serve basis. Note: all eligible children are not guaranteed funding; participation will be determined via a lottery process if eligible applicants exceed available program funding. For more information, visit educationfreedom.texas.gov.

PRE-K ELIGIBILITY

A child between the ages of 3 and 5 may be eligible to enroll in a participating pre-K program if the child is at least three years old and:

- ◯ is unable to speak and comprehend English;
- ◯ is eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program;
- ◯ is homeless;
- ◯ is the child of an active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces;
- ◯ is the child of a member of the U.S. armed forces who is injured or killed in the line of duty;
- ◯ is in foster care;
- ◯ is the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award; or
- ◯ is the child of a classroom teacher at a public school that offers a pre-K class.

PRE-K DOCUMENTS

In addition to the documents listed on the reverse page, parents should gather the following documents for their pre-K child.

*If your child is in foster care, the application must include **one** of the following:*

- ◯ court order;
- ◯ adoption documents;
- ◯ Department of Family and Protective Services foster/kinship placement orders;
- ◯ pre-K verification letter; or
- ◯ other valid proof of foster care.

*If your child's parent is active duty, or injured, or killed in the line of duty, the application must include **one** of the following:*

- ◯ statement of service;
- ◯ line of duty determination document;
- ◯ Purple Heart orders; or
- ◯ other applicable citations.

*If you or one of your child's parents is a Star of Texas recipient, then the application **must** include the Star of Texas Certificate.*

Additional documentation may be permitted and/or required to verify pre-K eligibility before TEFA funds are distributed.