

TEFA

Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA):

- Resources from TEA:
 - [Nov. 20 TAA](#), [Jan. 15 TAA](#), [Jan. 29 TAA](#) (Updates and supersedes Jan. 15 TAA)
 - [SB 2 Guidance](#) (updated Jan. 29)
 - [Slides about APEX ESA](#) (updated Jan. 29)
 - [APEX-ESA Guidance](#)
 - [EFA IEP Draft Rules](#) (updated Jan. 29)
 - [TEA Unique ID Guidance](#)
- Resources from Comptroller:
 - [Disability Certification Form](#) + [Instructions](#) + [Provider Information](#)



TCASE

TEFA

- The application is open Feb. 4 – March 17
- There is a separate Disability Certification Form that parents can submit to the comptroller for priority in the program's lottery. This form is not sufficient to lead to more EFA funding for the child. For EFA funding up to \$30k, the child must be eligible for special education as determined by a school district.
- Children do not have to be accepted into a private school to apply for TEFA, but they will have to prove acceptance for funds to flow starting July 1.
- Nothing changes under this program about Child Find and evaluation processes under IDEA and state law.

TEFA

- Districts are only required to upload IEPs or EFA IEPs to APEX-ESA if the parent communicates intent to apply for the TEFA and the child does not have an IA code in PEIMS from 2023-2024, 2024-2025, or 2025-2026 (as of Oct. snapshot)
- The only way a child would get an EFA IEP is if they are eligible for special education
- Districts may also need to provide parents with their child's UID#, copy of the most current IEP, and/or the most current FIE



TEFA

- There is no template for the EFA IEP. Districts are instructed to use the EFA IEP outline on page 6 of the [SB 2 TEA Guidance](#).
- Ensure that all IDEA processes are followed as you normally would do them if TEFA did not exist.
- TEA stated at our TCASE Feb. 2026 conference that districts should “try” to the best of their ability to make APEX uploads by Mar. 17. No IDEA-mandated timelines are expedited by this program. However, EFA IEPs are not under IDEA timelines.
- TEA also states in the guidance on p. 10 that the EFA IEP is an “option.”

TEFA

- EFA amounts for children with disabilities, up to \$30k, are based on what the child would have received in public school for the prior year, which is why school districts are being involved in this process.
- For the 2026-2027 awards, the EFA amount for a child with a disability will be based on IA codes.
- Once the new tiers system is in place, the EFA amounts would be based on the funding generated by the tiers, unless the law changes before then.
- It is unclear how updates to IEPs, including if a child is dismissed from special education, will be included in the comptroller's processes for future TEFA funding for families continuing to participate in the program over multiple years.

TEFA

Things to consider:

- Implementing this program feels as though it has many legal pitfalls, so please document under guidance of your legal counsel. Things to document could include:
 - When parent expresses intent to access TEFA
 - Efforts to meet Mar. 17 timeline
 - Communications with neighboring districts
 - Communications with parents, private schools
- Have a script for when parents call and/or have a person/dept. to direct them to.
- Know that you can refer parents to the comptroller's office or the TEFA website.
- Be ready to provide records when asked.
- Coordinate and plan with neighboring districts.

What triggers a district action related to TEFA?

Trigger: Parent communicates intent to access/apply for or “interest” in TEFA

What actions are required?

