



## **Trinity Lutheran Christian School**

### **Texas Education Freedom Account Information for Families**

#### **What is the Texas Education Freedom Account?**

The Texas Education Freedom Account was created by the Texas Legislature in 2025 to give families more choices in their child's education. Starting in the 2026–27 school year, funds will be made available to eligible students accepted into the program that can be used for tuition, tutoring, home-school educational expenses or other approved education expenses.

#### **Who runs the program?**

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts will oversee the program to ensure funds are used properly. Odyssey was selected as the certified educational assistance organization (CEAO) that will help with administration of the program under the Comptroller's oversight.

#### **Who is eligible to participate?**

Children are eligible to participate if they are U.S. citizens or lawfully present in the United States and are eligible to attend a Texas school district or open-enrollment charter school or pre-K program, including children of a parent who is an active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces. The parent must be a Texas resident.

## **What is the amount that will be available to children accepted into the program?**

The amount depends on the child's situation:

- Private school students
  - State law sets the amount of the transfer at 85 percent of the statewide average amount of state and local funding per student in Texas public schools. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has determined the amount for the 2026-27 school year is \$10,474 per child if the student attends an approved private school.
- Students with disabilities who have an individualized education plan (IEP) on file with their school district
  - May receive more — up to \$30,000 per year.
- Home-schooled students
  - May receive up to \$2,000 per year.

## **Will every eligible child who applies be approved?**

Not necessarily. If applications exceed available funding, a lottery will decide placement. State law sets this priority order:

### **Year 1**

*For the 2026-27 school year, applicants will be prioritized as follows:*

1. Children with a disability who are members of a household whose total annual income is at or below 500% of the Federal Poverty Level.\*
2. Children who are members of a household whose total annual income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
3. Children who are members of a household whose total annual income is between 200% and 500% of the Federal Poverty Level.
4. Children who are members of a household whose total annual income is at or above 500% of the Federal Poverty Level. Children who were enrolled in a Texas public school or charter school for at least 90% of the prior school year will be prioritized within this group. Funds for children in this category may not exceed 20 percent of the amount of money appropriated from the program fund for that school year.

\*For purposes of prioritization, the term “children with a disability” includes both children with an IEP on file with the Texas Education Agency at the time the application process closes and children who have submitted a program-approved proof-of-disability form with their application. However, only those children with an IEP on file who are accepted into the program are eligible for the increased funding amount available to children with a disability.

Note: *Note: Federal Poverty Level guidelines are set annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

## **Year 2**

*After year 1, applicants will first be prioritized in the following order, and then will be prioritized within each group in the order stated in the year 1 prioritization:*

1. Siblings of participating children.
2. New eligible program applicants.
3. Prior program participants who ceased program participation due to enrollment in a public or charter school.

If a child is accepted for participation during an application period, any eligible sibling of that child who applies during the same application period is also accepted for participation during that application period.

## **Who is eligible to submit an application on behalf of a child?**

The parent of the child can submit an application. Parent means a resident of this state who is a natural or adoptive parent, managing or possessory conservator, legal guardian, custodian, or other person with legal authority to act on behalf of a child.

## **Do families need to reapply every year?**

No. Students in good standing stay in the program automatically. Families only need to confirm they want to continue.

## **Can funds be used for online or out-of-state programs?**

Yes, if the provider applies for approval and is accepted into the program.

## **Can funds be used for career and technical education (CTE)?**

Yes. Families may use funds for approved CTE programs.

## **How will the program be monitored?**

The Comptroller is required to contract with a private entity to audit accounts and program eligibility at least annually to ensure compliance with applicable law. The State Auditor will also perform periodic audits to verify compliance with eligibility requirements and that funds are used for approved expenses.

## **When can private schools apply? What requirements do private schools need to fulfill to be approved for the program?**

The application period for private schools is expected to open on December 9, 2025. Private schools must be in Texas, accredited by an organization recognized by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or another accreditor recognized by the Texas Education Agency, and in continuous operation for at least two school years preceding the date of application. They also must annually administer a nationally norm-referenced assessment to participating students in grades 3-12. More information will be forthcoming soon.

## **When can families apply?**

The initial application period will open on February 4, 2026.

## **Additional Information and Alerts**

You may join the Comptrollers email list by signing up below or visiting their website at

[www.comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/esa](http://www.comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/esa)