GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Share Your TEFA Story

#TEFAOpensDoors #TxLege



What You Should Know About the Future of TEFA

While Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) are established in state law, funding for future years is determined through the state's regular legislative budget process. The next funding decisions will be made during the **90th Texas Legislative Session, beginning in January 2027**, and will involve both chambers of the Legislature and the governor, with the lieutenant governor and comptroller serving important roles.

Our goal is to maintain TEFA funding so that cost does not prevent parents from choosing the school that best meets their children's needs. Although we are exploring ways to support families if funding is reduced, preserving the program's funding is our immediate priority.

> **As lawmakers prepare to make these decisions, they need to hear directly from Texas families. Parents and students can help show the value of these educational opportunities by sharing their TEFA experience.**

Make Your Family's Voice Heard

Write to your legislators in January

Your state representative and senator welcome letters, emails, and calls once the session begins in January. Find your legislators with the Texas Legislature's **Who Represents Me?** tool.

Who Represents Me?
wrm.capitol.texas.gov

Starting in January, you can also share your experience with Governor-elect Gina Hinojosa, Lieutenant Governor-elect Vikki Goodwin, and Comptroller-elect Sarah Eckhardt.

Share your story online

Share your story through the statewide TEFA Opens Doors campaign with a short video, photo, or written testimonial. If posting on social media, include **#TEFAOpensDoors** and **#TxLege**, and tag your diocese and the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops (**@txcatholic**) to help bring your story to the attention of legislators.

If you prefer not to post from your personal account, you can submit your story to your school to share on your behalf. If you'd prefer to share fewer personal details, your school can publish a short statement or quote using only your first name and last initial, without a photo. Your school will coordinate any necessary permissions before sharing your story or images.

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IN YOUR OWN WORDS...

In your message, you can answer any of these prompts in as much detail as suits you. Specific examples and images can help lawmakers more than general statements of support for the program. More personal information, such as dollar amounts or your child's full name, is not required.

1 Why this school?
What were you looking for, and what made this school the right one for your child? What were your options before TEFA?

2 What has TEFA covered for your family?
Beyond tuition, what other opportunities does your child have access to because of TEFA? How did it factor into your choice of school?

3 What have you noticed in your child?
Describe a moment or a change you've seen since they started the program. This could include educational goals, social skill development, or a change in overall attitude toward learning. If your child has special learning or medical needs, include how the teachers and school respond to them.

4 What should a lawmaker know about your family?
If you had a few minutes with your state representative or senator, what would you want them to understand about your experience with TEFA? If cost is the main barrier to choosing a school for your child, include how TEFA has given you the freedom to make the best choice for your family.

5 What's ahead?
What are you hoping for your child's next few years of school and where does TEFA fit into those plans?