GUIDE FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Helping Families Share Their 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. Schools can help families explain what TEFA has meant to them through the statewide #TEFAOpensDoors campaign.**

Help Your Families Make Their Voices Heard

Invite families to participate

Distribute the Share Your TEFA Story guide, available in English and Spanish, to families participating in TEFA. It includes five questions to help parents describe their experience.

Offer guidance

Help parents move beyond general "TEFA helped us" statements by helping them describe a particular expense, school opportunity, or change they have seen in their child. Keep their message in the family's own words.

Collect stories in several formats

Collect short videos, photos with captions, and written statements or quotes. Schools may post stories on behalf of families who prefer not to use their personal accounts. A first name and last initial can be used with permission.

Encourage direct outreach

Invite parents and students to write directly to their state representative or senator, including handwritten notes. Letters, emails, and calls are welcome once the session begins in January. Find legislators at wrm.capitol.texas.gov.

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Obtain media releases

Before publishing or forwarding testimonials, obtain permission for the words and attribution used. Secure a photo/video release for identifiable images or recordings, especially those featuring children, and confirm it covers use by the school, diocese, and TCCB.

Share approved stories

Use **#TEFAOpensDoors** and **#TxLege**, and tag your diocese and **@txcatholic**. TCCB can translate written stories or add subtitles to submitted videos to help them reach more families and lawmakers.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

? Is TEFA at risk of being eliminated?

TEFA is established in state law and will not automatically end because of an election or change in leadership. Future funding, however, will be determined through the regular legislative budget process. This is why the **#TEFAOpensDoors** campaign is important: families' stories can help lawmakers understand the value of TEFA and the high demand for educational choice across Texas.

? Should parents apply or reapply if TEFA funding isn't guaranteed?

Yes. Encourage families to continue following the program's application and renewal requirements. TEFA remains in place, and families should not assume that future funding decisions will affect their eligibility or current opportunities. Final state funding will not be determined until the end of the veto period in June, so do not be discouraged by early assumptions in the legislative process.

? When will we know more?

The 90th Texas Legislative Session begins in January 2027, when lawmakers will consider the state's next budget. TCCB will provide updates as funding decisions develop and continue exploring ways to support families if funding is reduced. Encourage parents and school staff to subscribe to the **Texas Catholic Voice** newsletter for updates. Scan the QR code to join!