

TEXAS

Overall Market Rating: **Growth Possible**

Passed into law in 2025, [Texas Education Freedom Accounts](#) go into effect for the 2026-27 school year. The education savings accounts are worth \$10,474 per pupil for pupils attending private schools and \$2,000 for homeschooled students. Special-education students can receive up to \$30,000, depending on their specific needs. In theory, all students in the state are eligible, but the program is capped at \$1 billion in the first year, and applications exceeded the number of available scholarships within two weeks of the application going live. Priority goes first to special-education students and second to students in households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Third priority goes to households between 200% and 500% of the federal poverty level.

TEFA includes significant barriers to new private schools seeking to enroll economically disadvantaged students. Schools must be accredited and have been in operation for two years prior to securing approval to participate in TEFA. The accreditation requirement is navigable, but the two-year requirement leaves newly formed schools aiming to serve families without capacity for paying tuition on the sidelines. School operators with existing campuses that are at least two years old, in or out of Texas, may be able to secure approval for a new campus in the state that receives accreditation. Schools must also administer a nationally normed assessment annually to participate.

A significant advocacy and lobbying effort led to passage of TEFA, and the coalition’s allied groups form a supportive ecosystem for private schools looking to form or grow.

+ Best ✓ Fair - Inadequate	Program(s) Prioritize Low- Income HHs	Funding Is Adequate to Meet Demand (High or No Cap)	New Schools Eligible in First Year	Per-Pupil Amount Is Adequate	The Application Process Is Family-Friendly	There Is a Supportive Ecosystem for Private Schools
TEXAS	✓	-	-	+	-	✓

K-12 Enrollment

Nearly 6 million children attend K-12 schools in Texas. Private schools account for just 5% of that total. Homeschooling is popular in the state; an estimated 500,000 to 600,000 children attend school at home, down from as many as 750,000 during the pandemic.

TEXAS 2023-24			
Total PK-12	Public District	Public Charter	Private
5,821,168	5,108,279 (88%)	422,889 (7%)	290,000 (5%)

Choice Program Details

Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA)

Eligibility	Amounts	Participation (2026-27)	Other
Universal eligibility, but in this order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with a disability • Households at or below 200% of FPL • Households between 200% and 500% of FPL • Students in HH above 500% of FPL who were enrolled in a public school for 90% or more of the prior year • All others 	Private school: \$10,474 Private school (SPED students): up to \$30,000 Homeschooling: \$2,000	Depending on the numbers of SPED and homeschooling applicants, an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 students will receive awards in the first year (1.2%-1.5% of children in the state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools must be accredited by an approved accreditor or the Texas Education Agency • Schools must have continuously operated a campus for at least two years • Schools must administer an approved nationally normed assessment • First-year cap of \$1 billion • Short application window for students: Feb. 4 to March 17

Sources: [Learning Policy Institute](#), [EdChoice.org](#), Cato Institute, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, Texas Home School Coalition, Texas Comptroller's Office