What TEFA is (and is not)

TEFA is an Education Savings Account (ESA) program, not a voucher. Unlike vouchers, where funds are sent directly to schools, TEFA funds are deposited into an account managed by Odyssey, the state's certified educational assistance organization (CEAO). **Parents use the Odyssey portal and TEFA Wallet to direct payments to schools and approved vendors**.

Payment schedule — SY 2026-27

Funds flow in installments. Based on current Odyssey and Comptroller guidance:

Installment	Approximate date	% of award
1st payment	July 1, 2026 (families who confirmed by June 15)	**25%**
1st payment (late)	Mid-August 2026 (families confirming by July 31)	**25%**
2nd payment	October 1, 2026	**25%**
3rd / final payment	February 1, 2027	**Remaining 50%**
SY 2027-28 1st payment	September 1, 2027 (new school year begins)	**TBD**

Approved uses of TEFA funds

- Tuition and fees at a participating accredited private school
- Enrollment fees, application fees, and course-specific fees
- Textbooks and instructional materials
- Tutoring by approved providers
- Educational therapies

- Computer hardware or software — capped at 10% of the student's annual award (approx. $1,047 for standard students)
- Transportation to approved providers
- Industry-based credential programs approved by TEA
- Other items listed in the official program marketplace

Not Allowed:

- **Payments to family members for any services**
- **Athletics programs**

Key TEFA official resources

Official TEFA website (Comptroller): educationfreedom.texas.gov

Odyssey platform (family portal and school account): withodyssey.com