



TEXAS EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

INFORMATION FOR PROVIDERS COMPLETING THE DISABILITY CERTIFICATION FORM

Parents may submit the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' **Disability Certification Form** as proof of a child's disability and potential eligibility for special education services to receive priority in the new Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program.

The form is only used for prioritization within the application process. It will not be used to establish the amount of TEFA funds provided to the student's account, to establish a child's individualized education program (IEP) or for any other purpose.

TEFA applications run Feb. 4-March 17, and all forms must be submitted by the end of the application period.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The TEFA program was established by the 89th Texas Legislature to provide funds for students in private school or homeschool settings. The Comptroller's office administers the program and distribution of funds.

The program is open to all Texas children who are citizens, U.S. nationals or lawfully admitted into the United States and eligible to attend Texas public schools. Applicants are placed into prioritization tiers based on factors mandated by law and randomly selected by lottery, by tier, until all funds are exhausted.

PRIORITIZATION

The first prioritization tier is reserved for children with a disability in families with a household income at or below 500 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). All remaining tiers are determined solely by household income: Tier 2 – at or below 200 percent of FPL, Tier 3 – above 200 percent and below 500 percent of the FPL, and Tier 4 – at or above 500 percent of the FPL with children who were enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school for at least 90 percent of the preceding school year prioritized. Because interest may exceed available funding, many parents of children with disabilities may be interested in gathering the necessary documents to secure a place in Tier 1.

PRIORITIZATION DOCUMENTS

To document a child's disability, parents may provide any former or current Individualized Education Program (IEP) from Texas or another state, a Full and Individual Initial Evaluation (FIIE) or the Comptroller's Disability Certification Form.

COMPTROLLER'S DISABILITY CERTIFICATION FORM

This document is intended to standardize the documentation for children with disabilities to prioritize their applications. It reflects a framework similar to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, incorporates the criteria for determining disability provided in state and federal regulations and is intended to establish a provider's medical estimation that a child has a disability that adversely affects educational performance. Providers should agree to sign this form only if they are able to determine a disability under the scope of their license and training.

If your child has a current IEP on file with the Texas Education Agency, you do not need to submit this form or any of the above documents for your child to be prioritized and eligible for the additional funding.

For more information on the TEFA program, visit EducationFreedom.Texas.Gov or contact us at DisabilityForm.TEFA@cpa.texas.gov.