

Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) FAQ

Covenant Academy welcomes the increased educational choice that the new **Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA)** program provides for families. We have carefully reviewed the legislation and fully anticipate participation. However, if at any point the program diminishes the school's authority over its own mission, curriculum, or operations, we may reconsider participation.

As TEFA begins to shape the educational landscape in Texas, we offer the following FAQ to help clarify what this means for our Covenant community.

QUESTION: WILL TEFA CHANGE COVENANT ACADEMY'S ADMISSIONS PROCESS?

Answer:

No. Our admissions process will remain exactly as it is now, thoughtful, mission-driven, and designed to ensure that Covenant is the right fit for both the student and the family. We will continue to admit families who align with our vision for classical, Christ-centered education.

The *only* difference TEFA families will notice is how tuition may be paid. Once a student is accepted, parents may choose to use their TEFA funds toward tuition through their TEFA account.

QUESTION: WILL COVENANT INCREASE ITS TUITION BECAUSE OF TEFA?

Answer:

No. Covenant Academy sets tuition each year based on our approved annual budget, which reflects the actual cost of providing a high-quality Christian education, highly trained teachers, strong academics, and a mission-centered environment.

TEFA does not influence our tuition rates in any way. We will continue to determine tuition solely on what it takes to maintain the excellence and integrity of a Covenant education.

QUESTION: DOES PARTICIPATION IN TEFA COUNT AS RECEIVING GOVERNMENT FUNDING OR CREATE GOVERNMENT ENTANGLEMENTS?

Answer:

No. TEFA funds are directed by parents through individual education freedom accounts. These funds do **not** constitute government funding to the school, nor do they grant the government authority, oversight, regulation, or involvement in Covenant Academy.

Participation in TEFA does **not** create any government entanglement with our privately funded, faith-based mission.

QUESTION: HOW WILL TEFA WORK? WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO IF THEY WANT TO APPLY?

Answer:

The operational details of TEFA are still being finalized by the state, but we do have an initial timeline. **Schools will be able to begin the enrollment process to participate in the program on December 9th. After that, the application window for families is expected to open on or about February 4th.**

As additional information becomes available, Covenant will keep our community informed every step of the way.

In the meantime, parents who want to follow TEFA developments can sign up for updates through the **Texas Private Schools Association**: <https://texasprivateschools.org/families/school-choice/>. This is currently the best source for timelines, eligibility, and application procedures.

QUESTION: WILL COVENANT INCREASE CLASS SIZES TO ACCOMMODATE POTENTIAL DEMAND FROM TEFA?

Answer:

No. Our class sizes are intentionally set to support the best learning environment for our students, small, well-balanced, and relationally strong. We will continue to maintain these standards regardless of TEFA.

Even if interest in enrollment grows, we will preserve our commitment to small class sizes and thoughtful family fit to ensure every student receives Christ-centered formation that define a Covenant education.

QUESTION: HOW DOES TEFA HANDLE STUDENT SUPPORT NEEDS, ACCOMMODATIONS, AND LEARNING DIFFERENCES?

Answer:

TEFA assigns priority funding based on a student's documented learning needs combined with a family's financial qualifications. These are determined **by eligible qualifications**, which rely on formal documentation such as:

- Diagnostician evaluations
- Licensed specialist assessments
- Official medical or psychological documentation outlining a learning disability, health condition, or support need

If a student currently receives classroom support/accommodations at Covenant (a student support plan) but **does not** have diagnostician-level documentation, TEFA will not prioritize general funding.

In other words:

If a family wants their child to be considered for priority funding, the family must provide documentation for meeting the eligible qualifications. **Additionally**, families wishing to receive additional funding above the general amount for a child's support needs, accommodations, and learning differences must provide diagnostic testing *from the local school district*.

A critical reminder:

When families apply for TEFA in February, **you will be required to provide formal documentation during the application process**. Families who want to be considered for priority funding or a higher amount should begin the evaluation process now, rather than waiting until the application window opens.

Getting this documentation in place early will enable your child is considered for the correct tier and prevent delays in approval as funding is allocated on a first come first serve basis until maximums are reached.