



**TEXAS EDUCATION
FREEDOM ACCOUNTS**

STUDENTS WITH SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES

APPLYING FOR TEFA
1ST TIER FUNDING and ADDITIONAL FUNDING



WWW.SHARPACADEMY.NET



WWW.LUBBOCKLDC.ORG

EST. 2009
8315 INDIANA AVENUE
LUBBOCK, TX 79423
806.747.4277
FEBRUARY 1, 2025



LLDC Lubbock Learning Difference Center, INC.



Who Are We?



Greetings! I am excited about Texas Education Savings Accounts and the opportunities this will provide families, just like mine, to find answers to help your child! Every child deserves to LOVE going to school and LOVE learning! I am the founder and President of Lubbock Learning Difference Center, INC. Our Nonprofit (501 (c) 3) was founded to provide information, education, training and diagnostic testing for anyone who lives and deals with learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, on a daily basis.

My youngest son is dyslexic. We struggled for years to get answers about why he was not learning to read. And, little did we know, this journey to find answers would end up being a fulltime ministry for families just like ours. I learned that we, as parents, had to become the educational experts for our son. Because of his high intelligence he did not “qualify” to be dyslexic. In 2009, we opened a Private Christian School, **Sharp Academy** for K-12 children with dyslexia, offering a college preparatory education. And a few years later, the **Lubbock Learning Diagnostic Center**, providing full educational diagnostic evaluations for Specific Learning Disabilities and testing for ADHD, Autism and other mental, social and emotional disorders. Both, the school and diagnostic center, have been successful and we have helped 1000’s of people THRIVE!

As a Subject-Matter Experts (SME) in this field, we designed this Guideline for parents of students with Specific Learning Disabilities to help navigate the Application Process for TEFA. The mission of our ministry is to help families make the best possible plan for their child with a learning difference by sharing all we have learned over the past 30 years. Please call or email if we can help in any way.

All of us at LLDC SA are praying for the Texas Leaders managing this new program, the families & students that will benefit, and all the incredible educators that change children’s lives every day.

“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”
Matthew 19:26

Joyfully Serving,

Lisa Stane, BSOE, MAM
LLDC Lubbock Learning Difference Center, INC.
dba Sharp Academy dba LBK Learning Diagnostic Center



WWW.SHARPACADEMY.NET



WWW.LUBBOCKLDC.ORG

TABLE OF CONTENTS

➤ WHO CAN APPLY	4
➤ FOUR TIERS OF PRIORITIZATION	5
➤ WHAT DISABILITIES QUALIFY	6
➤ APPLY FOR PRIORITIZATION \$10,474 – STUDENTS WITH NO CURRENT IEP	7
➤ APPLY FOR PRIORITIZATION + ADDITIONAL FUNDING UP TO \$30,000	8
➤ ODYSSEY & TEFA APPLICATION – IMPORTANT DATES & ACTION ITEMS	9
➤ HOW TO SCHEDULE DIAGNOSTIC TESTING: PRIVATE or TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL	10
➤ LBK LEARNING DIAGNOSTIC CENTER INFORMATION	11
➤ SHARP ACADEMY INFORMATION	12
➤ AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT LINKS	13
➤ TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY LINKS	14
➤ RESOURCES AND WEBSITE LINKS	15



TEXAS EDUCATION
FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

Freedom to learn your way.

WHO CAN APPLY?



Applications

Open February 4, 2026

Close March 17, 2026

- Any student PreK-12th grade who is eligible to attend a Texas public school
- Due to limited funds, applications are subject to a 4 Tier lottery system
- Students **diagnosed with Disabilities** will qualify to be **PRIORITIZED** for **1st Tier** funding
- **Without** an IEP 1st Tier Disabilities qualify for \$10,474 for the 26-27 school year
- **With** an IEP (Fall 2023-2026) 1st Tier Disabilities qualify for additional funding up to \$30,000
- Tiers 2, 3 & 4 are determined by Family Income Levels
- Once approved – always approved – siblings of disabled student automatically approved!



8315 Indiana Ave
Lubbock, TX 79423
806.747.4277
www.sharpacademy.net



THE FOUR PRIORITY TIERS



March 18-April 5: Applications Processed

April 6: Notifications of Funding Awards Begin *(These dates are tentatively set and may change)*

Once the application period ends they will be processed for funding by priority in the following Tier Levels:



If there are more applications than funds, then funding will be decided by a Lottery



Tier	Priority Group	Income Criteria FPG <i>Federal Poverty Guidelines</i>	Key Documentation <i>For Prioritization Only</i>
1 st	Students with a Disability (Siblings automatically approved)	Family income at or below 500% of the FPG	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> IEP Individual Education Program <i>(any year)</i> FIE - Full Individual Evaluation (or FIIE) <i>(any year)</i> Diagnostic Certification Report <i>(no public school records)</i> <i>Student with private diagnostic evaluation, medical and/or psychological diagnosis.</i> <i>Signature of qualified professional, license number (if available) & child's teacher</i>
2 nd	Children from Lowest Income Households	Family income at or below 200% of FPG	Proof of income verify FPG level <i>(Adjusted Gross Income documents)</i>
3 rd	Children from Moderate Income Households	Family income between 201% and 500% of FPG	Proof of income verify FPG level <i>(Adjusted Gross Income documents)</i>
4 th (Lowest)	All Other Students	No income criteria	None <i>(Priority for students moving from public to private school)</i>

WHAT DISABILITIES QUALIFY?



**American with Disabilities Act: IDEA
FEDERAL LAW definition of disabilities
and who can diagnose each:**
[Evaluation Process](#)
[Learning Disabilities Defined](#)

**TEXAS LAW definition of disabilities
and who can diagnose each:**
[Texas Educ. Code Section 29.003](#)
[Texas Educ. Code Section 29.351\(3\)](#)
TEFA Full Definition of Each Disability:
[Publication #98-1606 • January 2026](#)

**This list of disabilities are included in the
priority funding and/or additional funding:**

1. AUTISM
2. DEAF-BLINDNESS
3. DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING
4. EMOTIONAL DISABILITY
5. INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY
6. MULTIPLE DISABILITIES
7. ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT
8. OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT
9. SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY
10. SPEECH IMPAIRMENT
11. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
12. VISUAL IMPAIRMENT
13. DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY
14. NONCATEGORICAL EARLY CHILDHOOD



STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Application Process for TIER 1 Prioritization Only



\$10,474 NO current IEP, FIE or FIEE

Parents will need to provide one of the following for **proof of disability**:

1. [TEFA Disability Certification Form 88-127](#) (only need to designate ONE Disability)

Requires TWO SIGNATURES:

One Teacher and the Qualified Professional who diagnosed student for ONE disability (educational, psychological or medical professional).

A. Initial in the SLD Box pg.1

B. And Sign on the signature pg. 2

2. Texas Public School IEP **OR** Out-of-State IEP dated prior to May 2023

3. Texas Public School FIE or FIEE (Full Initial Individual Evaluation) dated prior to May 2023

<input type="checkbox"/> Autism	<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf-blindness (must be certified by a speech/language therapist, a certified speech and language therapist, or a licensed speech language pathologist)
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf or hard of hearing (must be certified by a licensed audiologist)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional disability
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple disabilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedic Impairment (must be certified by a licensed physician)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other health impairment (must be certified by a licensed physician, a physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse with authority delegated under Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 157)
<input type="checkbox"/> Specific learning disability (must be certified by (1) at least one person qualified to conduct individual diagnostic examinations of children, such as a licensed specialist in school psychology/school psychologist, an educational diagnostician, a speech language pathologist, or a remedial reading teacher; and (2) one of the following: (a) the child's general education teacher; (b) if the child does not have a general education teacher, a general education classroom teacher qualified to teach a child of the child's age; or (c) for a child of less than school age, an individual qualified by the Texas Education Agency to teach a child of the child's age)	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech impairment (must be certified by a certified speech and hearing therapist, a certified speech and language therapist, or a licensed speech/language pathologist)
Initials: _____ (by person qualified to conduct individual diagnostic examinations of children)	<input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic brain injury (must be certified by a licensed physician)
Initials: _____ (by, as applicable, child's general education teacher, qualified general education teacher, or individual qualified by the Texas Education Agency)	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual impairment (must be certified by (1) a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist; (2) a certified teacher of students with visual impairments; and (3) a certified orientation and mobility specialist)
<input type="checkbox"/> Noncategorical early childhood	<input type="checkbox"/> Developmental delay

Name of Licensed Professional: _____ Work Phone: _____
Work Address: _____
Type of Professional License: _____
Professional License Number: _____ State/Authority Issuing License: _____
I HEREBY CERTIFY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.
Signature: _____
sign here!

You have certain rights under Chapters 202 and 203, Texas Government Code, to obtain a copy and correct information on items on this actual form. Contact us at tefa@texas.gov.

LINK: [DISABILITY CERTIFICATION FORM 88-127 01/22/26](#)

NOTE: (The 88-127 form will be updated on by Feb 4, 2026 to include Qualified Professional & License if applicable)



STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Application Process for TIER 1

Prioritization **PLUS** Additional Funding



up to **\$30,000** WITH AN IEP Dated 2023-24, 2024-25 or 2025-26

Parents will need to provide your child's UID number from ONE of the following documents:

1. Texas Public School IEP or Out of State IEP
2. Texas Public School FIE (Full Individual Evaluation) OR FIIE (Full Individual Initial Evaluation)
3. The Additional Funding will be calculated with the State Base Allotment for SPED students and the qualifier amounts per SPED Tiers for each disability for said child. The formula is $BA(MCR/TR)$; Base Allotment(Maximum Compressed Rate/Tax Rate). The State Base Allotment is \$6,380 and the MCR and TR per Texas School District, along with each district's SPED Tier qualifiers are considered public record and can be viewed.

The TEFA application will ask you to provide your child's IEP number so it can be compared to the data provided by TEA. If your child's IEP is not included in the TEA data, TEFA staff will follow up with TEA to determine whether data should have been included. If TEA determines a child's IEP is not current, the parent will be contacted to provide a copy of the IEP for prioritization purposes.



Odyssey was selected as the certified educational assistance organization (CEAO) that will manage TEFA. Please set up an account at www.support.withodyssey.com TEXAS

IMPORTANT DATES & ACTION ITEMS

FEBRUARY 4

- TEFA applications open to all Texas families [TEFA Parent Checklist](#)

- SSN - parent & child 's
- Tax Form 1040 24 or 25
- TX Driver's Lic.
- Child's Birth Certificate
- Each child need to apply

MARCH 17

- Deadline to [submit proof of disability](#)
- Before Applications close 3/17/26

- [IEP, FIE or FIEE](#)
- [ESA IEP](#)
- [Form 88-127](#)
- [Disability Certification](#)
- [Initial Diagnostic Testing or New IEP](#)

MARCH 18 TO APRIL 6

- Applications Processed

If there are more applicants, than funding - funds will be awarded by lottery Tier's 1ST - 4TH

WEEK OF APRIL 6TH

- Notifications sent to parents
- Week of April 6 is tentative - may change

Parents notified of funding for child (children)

APRIL 6 TO JUNE 30

- Parents must register at a TEFA approved private school

Choose Private School from TEFA list, and send Invoice to Odyssey for PMT

JULY 1

- Parents must approve tuition payments to private school

Odyssey issues 3 pmts to parents to pay the school:
July 1 - 25%,
October 1 - 50%,
April 1 - 25%.
Parent's must pay any difference for tuition/fee costs over funding



SUSPECT A LEARNING DISABILITY? DYSLEXIA, DYSGRAPHIA OR MATH DISORDER? TIME TO SCHEDULE A DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION

1. www.lubbockldc.org Schedule a private evaluation for Prioritization Only: *Contact LBK Learning Diagnostic Center to provide testing NOW. Call 806-747-4277 or visit our website. Testing is private pay.*
2. **Contact your local public school:** A request can be submitted for an ESA IEP from the local school district (LEA) to apply for prioritization **PLUS** additional funding. Parents can work with the school district of the Private School's address **or** their home address to request to update a previous FIE and ESA IEP, or request an initial one.

[11/20/2025 TEA Overview of TEFA and Children with Disabilities: Evaluations & IEP's \(Revised since original post\)](#)



WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS DIAGNOSTIC TESTING?

Diagnosis of a Specific Learning Disability can be done NOW to qualify for the 1st Tier Funding

- **LBK Learning Diagnostic Center can test for Specific Learning Disabilities such as dyslexia, dysgraphia and math disorders**
- **[A Diagnostic Certification Form 88-127](#) can be added to the Odyssey Student Application during the Feb 4 – Mar 17 application window**
- **Limited testing times available**
- **Testing usually takes one full day**
- **Testing is private pay**
- **Final date to schedule testing is March 11, 2026**
- **Testing for Autism, ADHD and Executive Functioning available remotely. Final report must be reviewed by a medical professional for a diagnosis**
- **Call 806-747-4277 for screening, prices and scheduling**

LBK LEARNING
DIAGNOSTIC CENTER

est. 2009

8315 Indiana Ave
Lubbock, TX 79423

806.747.4277

www.lubbockldc.org



Sharp Academy is an accredited Private Christian School K-12



College Prep Education for students with Dyslexia est.2009

- We Honor God first! Weekly Chapel & Daily Bible Class 1st each day!
- Certified Dyslexia Reading Instruction – Ascend Smarter Intervention
- 100% College Placement Rate – Grads attending TTU, WBU and LCU!
- Early Collegiate High School - our grads earn college hours from WBU
- 31% of our Grads have earned a College Degree
- NHS, Student Council and Community Service
- Students learn to Self-Advocate & gain Self-Esteem
- Honors Level Curriculum
- 6 to 1 Student/Teacher Ratio
- Basketball, Golf, Track & Tennis
- Fine Arts, Technology & Career Electives
- Limited seats available – Apply NOW!



Experience · Excellent · Education



est. 2009

8315 Indiana Ave
Lubbock, TX 79423

806.747.4277

www.sharpacademy.net



TEXAS PRIVATE SCHOOL
ACCREDITATION COMMISSION



DISCLAIMER

February 3, 2026 – 9:24 PM

The rules for applying & qualifying for disability funding have changed frequently. Changes are likely to continue throughout the application period.



PARENTS KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

RESOURCES: Americans with Disabilities Act: IDEA

- *The current Form 88-127 TEFA Disabilities Certification Form is being updated to align with ADA, As of 5:25 PM the Updated Form has not been published. Keep checking back. The Comptroller's team is working diligently to get this done!*
- **The American with Disabilities Act: IDEA** <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/a/300.8>
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: Sec 300.8 (C) (10) Specific Learning Disability defined
- **The American with Disabilities Act: IDEA** <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/d/300.304>
Sec 300.304 (c) (iv. & v.) Evaluation Process: Specifically WHO is qualified to diagnose SLD – (iv.) Are administered by trained and knowledgeable personnel; and (v.)with any instructions provided by the producer of the assessments.
- **The American with Disabilities Act: IDEA** <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/questions-and-answers-on-serving-children-with-disabilities-placed-by-their-parents-in-private-schools/>
FAPE and parentally placement of children with disabilities in private schools,



DISCLAIMER

February 3, 2026 – 9:24 PM

PARENTS KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The rules for applying & qualifying for disability funding have changed frequently. Changes are likely to continue throughout the application period.

RESOURCES: Texas Education Agency-Proof of IEP Policy

- January 29, 2026 Presentation about Uploading IEP's through APEX <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/esa-sped-guidance.pdf>
- January 29, 2026 How to Request an ESA IEP <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/taa-letters/updated-guidance-education-savings-accounts-esas-and-individualized-education-programs-ieps>
- 01/20/26 TEA Webinar Guideline to submit IEP's to TEFA: rule change 01/26/26 from the Comptroller's Office - IEP's dated 23-24, 24-25 or 25-26 accepted for tier 1 and additional funding <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/apex-esa-guidance.pdf>
- 01/15/2026 TEA PDF Explaining actions by school systems to report IEP's of TEFA ESA applicants <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/taa-letters/actions-required-of-school-systems-for-education-savings-accounts>
- 11/20/2025 TEA Overview of TEFA and Children with Disabilities: Evaluations & IEP's (Revised since original post) <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/taa-letters/senate-bill-2-education-savings-accounts-and-children-with-disabilities>



RESOURCES & IMPORTANT WEBSITES

[Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)

[Texas www.withodyssey.org](http://www.withodyssey.org)

<https://educationfreedom.texas.gov/>

[Senate Bill 2:](#)

[Disability Certification Form 88-127](#)

[Publication #98-1606 • January 2026](#)

[01/15/2026 TEA Report IEP's of TEFA ESA applicants](#) How TEA will Report IEP confirmation to TEFA

[11/20/2025 TEA Overview of TEFA and Children with Disabilities:](#) Request ESA IEP From local School Campus

State Administration of the program, funds and rules

Certified Educational Assistance Organization (CEAO)

Texas Education Freedom Accounts

The New Senate Bill 2 TEFA Texas Education Freedom Accounts

TEFA Form for Proof of Disability for students with no IEP

Instructions to Apply for Tier 1

**Texas Education Code [TEFA TEC Sec 29.351\(3\)](#)
[Learning Disabilities Defines TEC Sec 29.003](#)**

**American with Disabilities Act: IDEA
[Evaluation Process](#) [Learning Disabilities Defined](#)**



[WWW.LUBBOCKLDC.ORG](http://www.lubbocklfdc.org)



[WWW.SHARPACADEMY.NET](http://www.sharpacademy.net)