

FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES WITH TEFA FUNDS

WHAT CAN I ACTUALLY BUY WITH MY TEFA FUNDS?

The state gave you a list of 1,993 approved vendors and no instructions. What the account pays for, the two limits that trip families up, and the one question that keeps orders from cancelling.

★ READ TO THE END →

Page 2 ends with *the five reasons TEFA orders get cancelled*, in the order parents hit them, *and the one order that goes through every time*.

WHAT TEFA PAYS FOR

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|---|--|
| ✓ Curriculum, workbooks, textbooks | ✗ Anything bought outside the Odyssey marketplace (TEFA never pays you back) |
| ✓ Tutoring, if the tutor holds an active Texas teaching certificate | ✗ Therapy your insurance, Medicaid, or CHIP already covers |
| ✓ Speech, OT, behavioral, physical therapy (when not covered above) | ✗ Tech beyond the 10% bucket (see below) |
| ✓ Music lessons, and instruments up to \$1,000 each | ✗ Uniforms, unless a school or course requires them |
| ✓ Online classes, test prep, one assessment a year | ✗ Public or charter school enrollment mid-year (it ends the account) |

THE TWO LIMITS

TECH: ONE \$200 BUCKET

10% of your award, all devices combined

Laptops, tablets, headphones, printers, calculators, hot spots, software. On a \$2,000 award that is \$200 total for the year, tax and shipping included. A \$185 tablet plus tax is over.

INSTRUMENTS: \$1,000 EACH

Separate from the tech bucket

A keyboard, guitar, or violin up to \$1,000 per instrument. Some stores only sell the instrument bundled with lessons; buy the bundle and it goes through.

HOMESCHOOL: \$2,000, ONE PAYMENT

Paid in full after you opt in

Unused funds roll into next year if you stay in the program. No rush to buy a laptop you don't need.

Before you pay, one question:

"Is this exact product approved for TEFA?" A listed vendor can still sell items the marketplace rejects. Ask in writing, then order.

YOUR FIRST ORDER, THIS WEEK

Three steps, in this order. Families who did it this way report the fewest cancellations.

1. BUY IN THIS ORDER

- 1 The year's curriculum first.**
The biggest line and the least likely to cancel. 18 of 188 teach every subject.
- 2 Tutoring or therapy next.**
Services: no shipping, no stock.
- 3 Tech last, in one order.**
Under \$180 to be safe.

2. THE FOUR LIMITS, ONE LINE EACH

Limit	What it means for your order
Tech: 10% of the award	\$200 on \$2,000, all devices, tax counts. Check the tech line in the wallet.
Instruments: \$1,000 each	A \$950 keyboard goes through; \$1,200 cancels. Separate from the tech limit.
Tutors: Texas teaching certificate	Get the tutor's name, check it at TEA, screenshot "Active."
Therapy: not covered by insurance	If Medicaid, CHIP, or your plan covers it, TEFA won't. Ask before booking.

3. FIND IT, THEN ORDER IT THROUGH THE MARKETPLACE

- 1 Search the state's finder**
(finder.educationfreedom.texas.gov) by type and city. Out-of-state vendors are fine if listed.
- 2 Open the vendor in Odyssey**
and find the exact item. Listed vendor and approved item differ.
- 3 Order in Odyssey, never on the vendor's site.**
TEFA pays the vendor; it never pays you back.

If the order cancels, it's one of five things:

1. Tax pushed tech over the limit. Stay under \$180.
2. The item isn't approved yet. Ask "is this exact item approved for TEFA?"
3. Out of stock. Reorder in a few days or from another listed vendor.
4. Instrument ordered alone. Add the lessons.
5. The wallet wasn't loaded, or is on the wrong setting. Check both in the portal first.

Sources: educationfreedom.texas.gov/families (approved expenses, 10% technology limit, award amounts); support.withodyssey.com (instrument cap, tutor certificate, therapy coverage, purchases through the platform, no refunds to parents); finder.educationfreedom.texas.gov counts Sept 16, 2026; Texas TEFA parent group posts Aug 15 to Sept 18, 2026.