

FOR TEFA FAMILIES IN AN ONLINE PRIVATE SCHOOL

IS YOUR ONLINE SCHOOL WORKING? FIVE THINGS TO CHECK BEFORE THE SECOND INSTALLMENT.

Parents in the TEFA groups are asking the same question three weeks in: "how many hours a day are your kids on each subject, how often are they tested, and is this a good fit?" Here's how to answer it for your own kid.

★ **READ TO THE END** → Page 2 ends with *what the rules say if you need to switch schools mid-year, and the one thing the wallet does when you do.*

FIVE CHECKS, ONE WEEK

- 1 Hours per subject per day.**
Write down what your kid actually did for five school days. Under 20 minutes on a core subject, most days, is a red flag at any grade.
- 2 Who teaches, and when.**
Live teacher on a schedule, recorded lessons, or software. The school's site says; your kid's week says whether it's true.
- 3 What happens when your kid is stuck.**
Time it: from "I don't get this" to a human answer. Same day is good. Two days is a problem.
- 4 How often they're tested, and what you see.**
A weekly check and a gradebook you can open beats a quarterly report.
- 5 Whether it fits a learning difference.**
If your child has an IEP or a diagnosis, ask the school in writing what accommodations they provide and who delivers them. "We're flexible" is not an answer.

WHAT A GOOD ANSWER LOOKS LIKE

ACCREDITED, EVERY GRADE

Accreditation named on the site. Grades open through 12, so you're not switching again in two years.

LIVE TEACHERS DAILY

A real schedule with a real person, not a chatbot and a video library.

PUBLISHES ITS PRICE

Tuition on the site, in dollars. Of the 81 online schools on the state's list, 8 publish it. That number tells you something.

Before you decide:

run the five checks for one week, write the answers down, then ask two other schools the same five questions. Page 2 has the message to send them.

IF IT ISN'T WORKING: THE MESSAGE, THE RULES, THE SWITCH

Ask two other schools the same five things in writing. Then the rules, quoted, for changing schools.

1. THE MESSAGE TO SEND ANY ONLINE SCHOOL (COPY IT)

"Hi. We're a TEFA family looking at [grade] for spring. Five questions before we apply: hours per subject per day, and how much is live; who teaches and when; what happens the same day when my kid is stuck; how often they're tested and what I can see; and tuition by grade with any fees, in writing. Thank you."

A school that answers all five in one reply is telling you something. The state's finder lists 81 online schools; 8 publish tuition on their sites. We sent all 81 this survey on Sept 16; answers go in the newsletter as they arrive, and "did not respond" gets listed by name.

2. IF YOU NEED TO SWITCH: WHAT THE RULES SAY

Question	What the rules say	Source
How is a private-school award paid?	25% around July 1, 25% around Oct 1, 50% around Feb 1, to the school after it confirms enrollment.	Odyssey help center
Can I move to a different approved school?	The award belongs to the child; the new school must be on the state's list and confirm enrollment. Unused tuition is refunded by the old school to Odyssey, never to you, and lands back in the wallet. Contact support before withdrawing.	Odyssey help center
Can I switch to homeschool instead?	The homeschool setting pays \$2,000 a year, not \$10,474. Check the setting in the portal before you change anything.	State families page
What ends the account?	Enrolling in a public or charter school mid-year. Buy what you need before you switch.	Odyssey help center
Is testing required?	Yes for private-school students in grades 3 to 12, one approved assessment a year. Not for homeschool.	Odyssey help center

The one thing the wallet does when you switch:

it follows the setting, not you. Private to private: the remaining installments follow the child once the new school confirms. Private to homeschool: the award becomes \$2,000 for the year, and one parent found \$0 until support moved the account. Private to public: the wallet closes. Decide the setting first, then the school.

Sources: support.withodyssey.com (installment schedule, tuition confirmation, tuition refund policy, assessment requirement, mid-year public enrollment); educationfreedom.texas.gov/families (\$10,474 private-school amount for 2026-27, \$2,000 homeschool amount); finder.educationfreedom.texas.gov (81 online-tagged schools, Sept 16, 2026); Texas TEFA parent group posts Aug 15 to Sept 18, 2026.