

FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES WITH TEFA FUNDS

YOU CAN BUY A LAPTOP WITH YOUR TEFA VOUCHER. BARELY.

Technology is the one purchase parents in the TEFA groups complain about most: cancelled six times, "over the limit" at \$185, printers that never go through. The rule in the state's words, and what actually fits.

★ **READ TO THE END** → Page 2 ends with *the five reasons tech orders cancel*, in the order parents hit them, *and the one order that goes through*.

THE RULE

10% OF YOUR AWARD

\$200 on a \$2,000 homeschool award

The state's approved-expense list caps "computer hardware and software" at 10% of the account for the year. That is the whole tech budget, not per item.

ONE SHARED BUCKET

Everything with a plug counts

Odyssey's list: laptops, tablets, monitors, headphones, webcams, printers, accessories, calculators, hot spots, software.

TAX AND SHIPPING COUNT

Parents report: \$185 + tax = cancelled

The marketplace checks the order total against the bucket. At 8.25% tax a \$185 tablet is \$200.26. Stay under \$180 for any single device, less if shipping is charged.

WHAT ACTUALLY FITS UNDER \$180

Item	Typical marketplace price	Fits?	Notes
Chromebook, 11 to 14 inch, new	\$150 to \$250	Some	Filter by price under \$175 before tax; refurbished models often list lower.
Basic Android tablet, 8 to 10 inch	\$80 to \$180	Yes	The most common thing parents buy successfully.
iPad	\$300+	No	Over the bucket on any award under \$3,000.
Kids' headphones (wired or wireless)	\$20 to \$60	Yes	But it comes out of the same \$200 as the device.
Inkjet printer	\$60 to \$150	Yes, if it's your only device	Parents report repeated cancellations on printers; ask the vendor if the exact model is approved first.
Curriculum software, annual license	\$30 to \$150	Yes	Software counts against the bucket; a curriculum's online program usually does not (ask).

Before you order tech:

total with tax under \$180, wallet tech balance checked, exact model confirmed as approved by the vendor. Then order.

YOUR TECH ORDER, THIS WEEK

One order, one device per child, under \$180. Four steps, then the five ways it cancels.

1. CHECK THE TECH LINE IN THE WALLET

- 1** **Open the wallet, not the award letter.**
The tech limit has its own line; anything bought this year already came out of it.
- 2** **Siblings have separate limits.**
Two kids at \$2,000 is \$200 each, not \$400 on one laptop. Combining cancels both.

2. FILTER UNDER \$180, THEN CONFIRM THE MODEL

- 1** **In Odyssey, filter by price under \$175**
before tax; refurbished models often list lower.
- 2** **Message the vendor through the marketplace:**
"Is this exact model approved for TEFA?" Listed store, unapproved model is the second most common cancel.

3. BUY THE YEAR'S TECH IN ONE ORDER

- 1** **Device first, accessories only if there's room.**
A \$175 tablet leaves \$25; headphones go on next year's limit.
- 2** **Software:**
counts against the limit if tagged as software; a curriculum's online program usually doesn't (ask the vendor how it's tagged).

4. IF IT'S YOUR ONLY DEVICE AND YOU WANT A PRINTER

Printers fit (\$60 to \$150) but parents report repeated cancellations on them; ask the vendor whether the exact model is approved before it's the one order you place.

The five reasons tech orders cancel:

1. Tax pushed it over. A \$185 tablet at 8.25% is \$200.26. Stay under \$180.
2. The limit was already spent. August headphones used up September's laptop.
3. Listed store, unapproved model. Ask first.
4. Out of stock. The marketplace cancels instead of backordering; reorder in a few days.
5. Two kids' funds on one device. One device per child, under that child's limit.

Sources: educationfreedom.texas.gov/families (10% technology limit); support.withodyssey.com (technology category, purchases through the platform); Texas TEFA parent group posts Aug 15 to Sept 18, 2026 (cancellation reports); marketplace price ranges Sept 17, 2026.