



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF  
GALVESTON-HOUSTON

# Why Choose a Catholic Education for your Child?

**Catholic Schools** have a long tradition of promoting excellence in academics while encouraging spiritual growth. If you're seeking an exceptional education for your child, choose Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

## Catholic schools provide:

- An education combining Catholic faith with academic excellence.
- High standards for student achievement while helping each student succeed.
- A partnership with parents in the academic and faith formation of their children.
- Effective use of technology to enhance education.
- A safe and welcoming environment for all.

## Academic success

Research has shown that students in Catholic schools made greater improvement in reading and mathematics relative to their national peers than students attending other private schools. These differences are apparent across the board for students, regardless of gender, race or ethnicity, household size, parental marital status, and family income. Catholic schools provide a consistent advantage for all students and families.<sup>1</sup>

## Success beyond graduation

The Catholic high school graduation rate is 98% with 85% of graduates attending four-year colleges compared to 43% of public-school students enrolling in college. Catholic high school graduates who enter college are twice as likely to graduate from college as students who attend public high schools; and 62% of Catholic high school graduates earn a bachelor's degree or higher within eight years of graduating high school.<sup>2</sup>



Tour a Catholic school today to see the unparalleled advantage a Catholic education provides for your child.

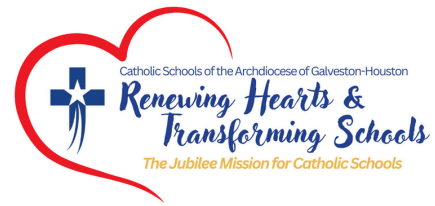
To find a Catholic school in your neighborhood, visit:

**[www.ChooseCatholicSchools.org](http://www.ChooseCatholicSchools.org)**

1. Figlio, David. 2021. "Evidence of a Catholic School Advantage in Nonpublic Scholarship Programs for Low-Income Families." Urban Institute, December 2021.  
2. Durrani, A. (2023, April 18). Considering Catholic school? Here's what to know. U.S. News & World Report.

## Understanding

# Texas Education Freedom Accounts



## What is it?

Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) is the name of the school choice program that provides parents of students an opportunity to apply for a publicly funded, government-authorized savings account to pay for their children's education at a private institution, including a Catholic school. The Texas legislature has designated \$1 billion in funding for the TEFA program for the 2026-2027 school year.

## How will the funds be used?

Parents may use the funds to pay for eligible expenses for their children in PreK – 12th grade, including school tuition, school breakfasts and lunches, uniforms, tutoring, online education programs, therapies for students with special needs, textbooks, or other instructional materials.

## How much is available?

- The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has determined funding for the first year of the program will be \$10,474 per student.
- Students with disabilities who have an individualized education plan (IEP) on file with their school district may receive up to an estimated \$30,000 per year.
- Home-schooled students may receive up to \$2,000 per year.

## Who is eligible?

Student must be a U.S. citizen, national, or lawful resident eligible to attend a Texas public school.

If applications exceed available funding, a lottery will decide one's placement based on:

- Children with a disability whose family income is at or below 500% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)
- Children whose family income is at or below 200% of the FPG
- Children whose family income is between 200 – 500% of the FPG
- All other children, depending upon available funds. Students who move from public schools will be prioritized over currently enrolled private school students in this category only (capped at 20% of the total appropriation of the TEFA program)

## When do I apply?

The application period is Feb. 4 - Mar. 17, 2026, for funding during the 2026-2027 academic school year.

## Stay informed

Stay informed on any changes or updates on the TEFA program.

Go to [www.ChooseCatholicSchools.org/TEFA](http://www.ChooseCatholicSchools.org/TEFA) to find the most current information available, and where you can apply for funds beginning in early 2026.



## Learn more:

[www.ChooseCatholicSchools.org/tefa](http://www.ChooseCatholicSchools.org/tefa)

