FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES WITH TEFA FUNDS

YOU CAN BUY A LAPTOP WITH YOUR TEFA VOUCHER.

Tech is one of the most asked-about purchases in the TEFA parent groups. Here's what the state allows and what fits under the limit.

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★ **READ TO THE END →** Page 2 ends with *five checks before a tech order* and *how to place the one 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.

ONE SHARED BUCKET

Everything with a plug counts

Odyssey's list covers laptops, tablets, monitors, headphones, webcams, printers, accessories, calculators, hot spots, and software, all from the same $200.

TAX AND SHIPPING COUNT

Parents report: $185 + tax = cancelled

The marketplace checks the order total against the bucket, and at 8.25% tax a $185 tablet comes to $200.26. Stay under $180 for any single device, and lower 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 tech order that most often goes through.
iPad	$300+	No	Over the bucket on any award under $3,000.
Kids' headphones (wired or wireless)	$20 to $60	Yes	They come 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, so ask the vendor whether 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 doesn't, but ask how it's tagged.

Before you order tech, make sure the total with tax is under $180, you've checked the wallet's tech balance, and the vendor has confirmed the exact model is approved.

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PLACING A TECH ORDER

One order, one device per child, under $180.

1. CHECK THE TECH LINE IN THE WALLET

1. **Open the wallet, not the award letter.** The tech limit has its own line, and anything you bought this year has already come out of it.
2. **Siblings have separate limits.** Two kids at $2,000 each means $200 each, not $400 toward one laptop. Each child's account is separate.

2. FILTER UNDER $180

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?" A listed store selling an unapproved model is the second most common reason for a cancellation.

3. TRY TO BUY THE TECH IN A SINGLE ORDER

1. **Device first, accessories only if there's room.** A $175 tablet leaves $25, so the headphones wait for next year's limit.
2. **Software** counts against the limit if it's tagged as software. A curriculum's online program usually isn't, so ask the vendor how it's tagged.

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

Printers fit at $60 to $150, but parents report repeated cancellations on them. Ask the vendor whether the exact model is approved before you order.

Five checks before a tech order:

1. Include tax. A $185 tablet at 8.25% is $200.26, so stay under $180.
2. Check what's left. Headphones in August come out of the same $200 as a laptop in September.
3. Confirm the model. An approved store can still carry a model that isn't approved.
4. Check stock. The marketplace cancels instead of backordering, so reorder in a few days if it's out.
5. One device per child. Each device comes out of that child's own limit.

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Sources: educationfreedom.texas.gov/families (10% technology limit); support.withodyssey.com (technology category, purchases through the platform); 2,578 posts from the two largest Texas TEFA parent groups on Facebook, March 16 to Sept 19, 2026 (cancellation reports); marketplace price ranges Sept 17, 2026.

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