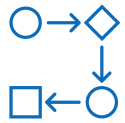
Texas Education Agency

Parent-Directed Special Education Services (PDSES) - $1,500 Online Grant for Families

Texas Education Agency

Agenda



PDSES Program Overview

Program History

Application Process

Shopping in the PDSES Marketplace

Frequently Asked Questions

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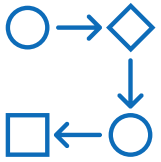


PDSES Program Overview

What is PDSES?

The PDSES program gives a $1,500 one-time grant to families of Texas public school students served through special education. Families are given access to an online account where they can use this money to purchase educational goods and services for their student.

What can families purchase?

With PDSES accounts, families can purchase **educational goods** and **services** from the PDSES marketplace.

EDUCATIONAL GOODS SUCH AS:

- Books
- Laptops
- Tablets
- School Supplies
- Sensory Items
- Therapeutic Items

SERVICES SUCH AS:

- Tutoring
- Therapy
- Social Skills
- Camps

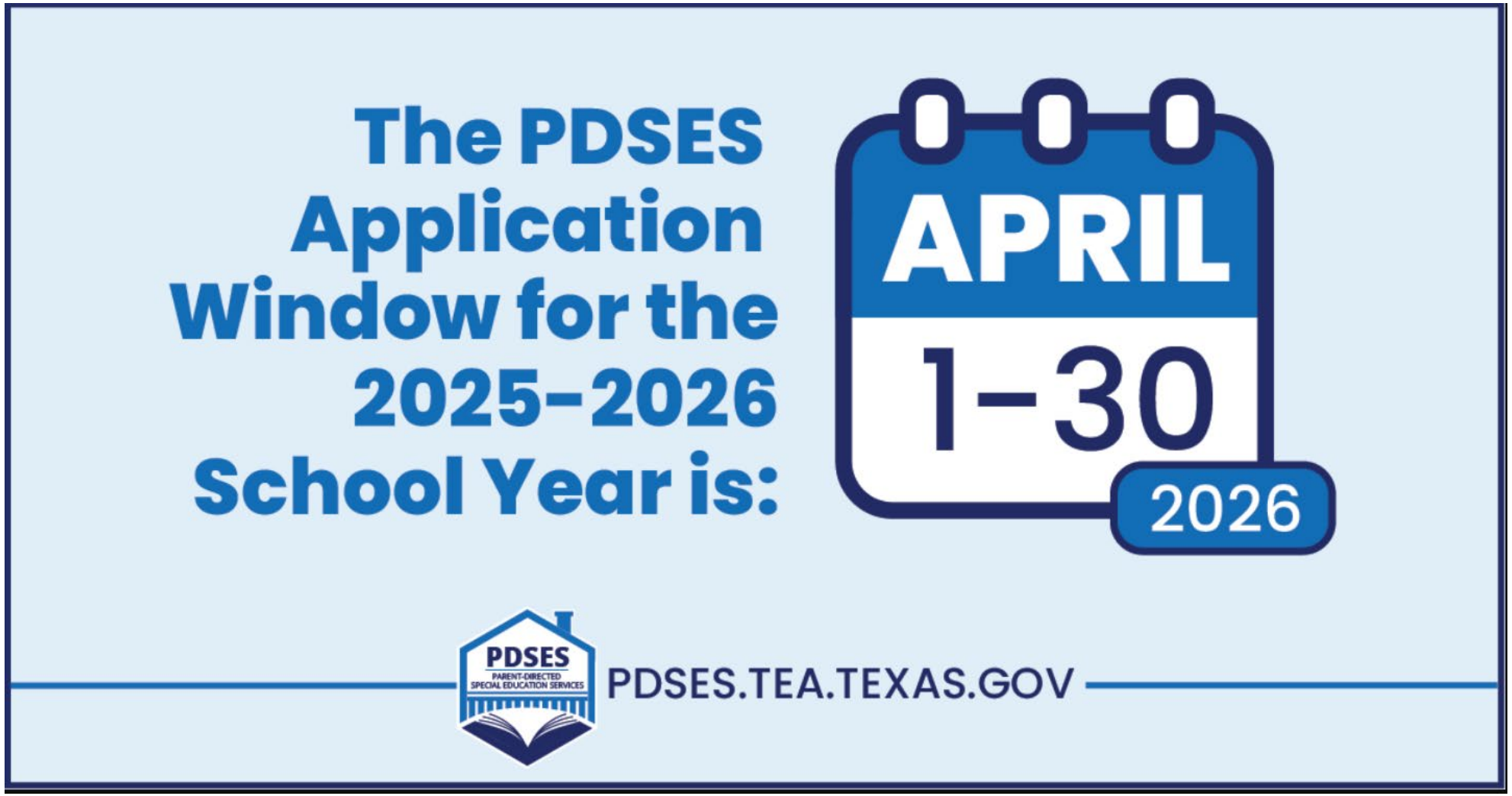
Who is eligible?

To be eligible for a PDSES grant, students must currently:

- be enrolled in a Texas public school (EE-12th grades),
- receive special education services through an individualized education program (IEP), **and**
- not have received a PDSES grant in the past.

PDSES is a ONE TIME only grant.

2025-2026 Application Window



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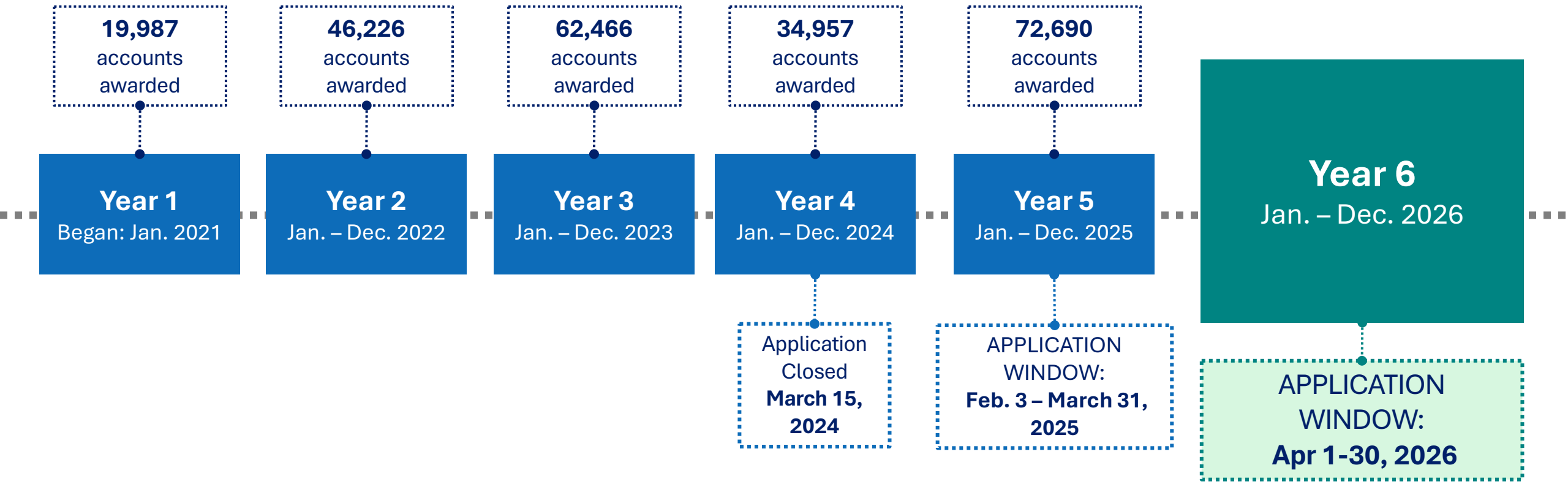
Program History

We are going into year 6!



Data from Nov. 11, 2025

Program Successes

236,326	+691,657	+2,782,457	+715,790
Students with accounts	**Approved educational orders**	**Approved educational items**	**Services purchased or invoiced**

Parent Testimonial

"We were able to get a very much needed swing for my kiddo...helps him calm, helps his vestibular system, helps him chill whilst reading. We were also able to purchase a "pressure sock" style thing that helps hug his body (kind of like a bottomless sleeping bag) and he feels good in it. We have been able to get some helpful books, fidgets and calming toys. What a gift! The team is nothing short of wonderful; communicative, prompt and thorough. So thankful!"

Parent Feedback

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> This grant built my child's confidence, he's able to study, print out study guides, and utilize online math apps that will help him with Algebra. He also can use the computer to complete schoolwork and help him learn the basics to become more efficient in his education

> I bought him materials that will help my child catch up and help his reading through manipulatives to keep him engaged and mirrors to help him see the sounds he is producing. His language and his reading skills have increased in the short time that we have been using the materials. Thank you very much for the opportunity to help my child catch up.

> Thank you! We are grateful for the financial assistance to pay for therapies for our children. Speech services are crucial for our 5-year-old who is language delayed. She is making great progress in both OT and SP therapies. Our 9-year-old is going beautifully in PT and OT. These services help him to learn his body, have spatial awareness, and learn to self-regulate which translates to the classroom. Our 3rd child was able to get a tablet that helps him with special interest projects such as coding and doing school related projects and being able to virtually attend meetings for projects with other students as he doesn't have a cellphone.

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Application Process

Application Process

1. **Prepare to apply**

2. **Apply - the application opens April 1, 2026, 8am CST**

★ **Uploading Documentation (if necessary)**

3. **Check your status**

1 TEA website

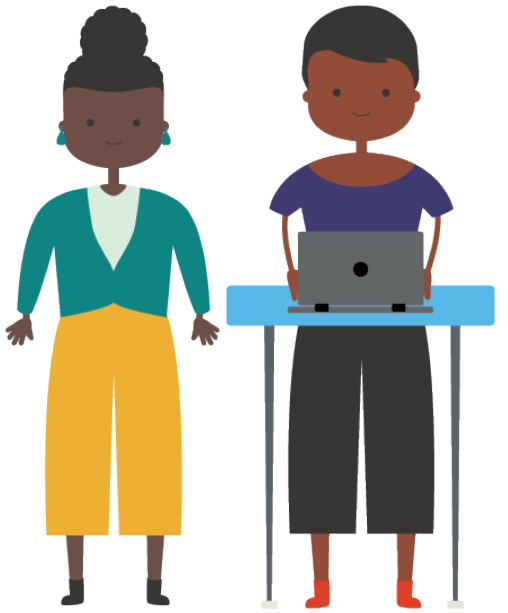
Visit PDSES.TEA.TEXAS.GOV

- **Learn more** about the program,
- **Find answers** to frequently asked questions, and
- **Sign up for email reminders** – the PDSES program team will send out updates and reminders through email.

Join the 2025-2026 School Year's Application Email List:

If you would like to receive email updates about the PDSES program, including reminders about this year's application window, please fill out the interest form below to join the email list. To complete the form in Spanish, after clicking on the button below there will be a language option in the top right to toggle to Spanish.

Join the Email List

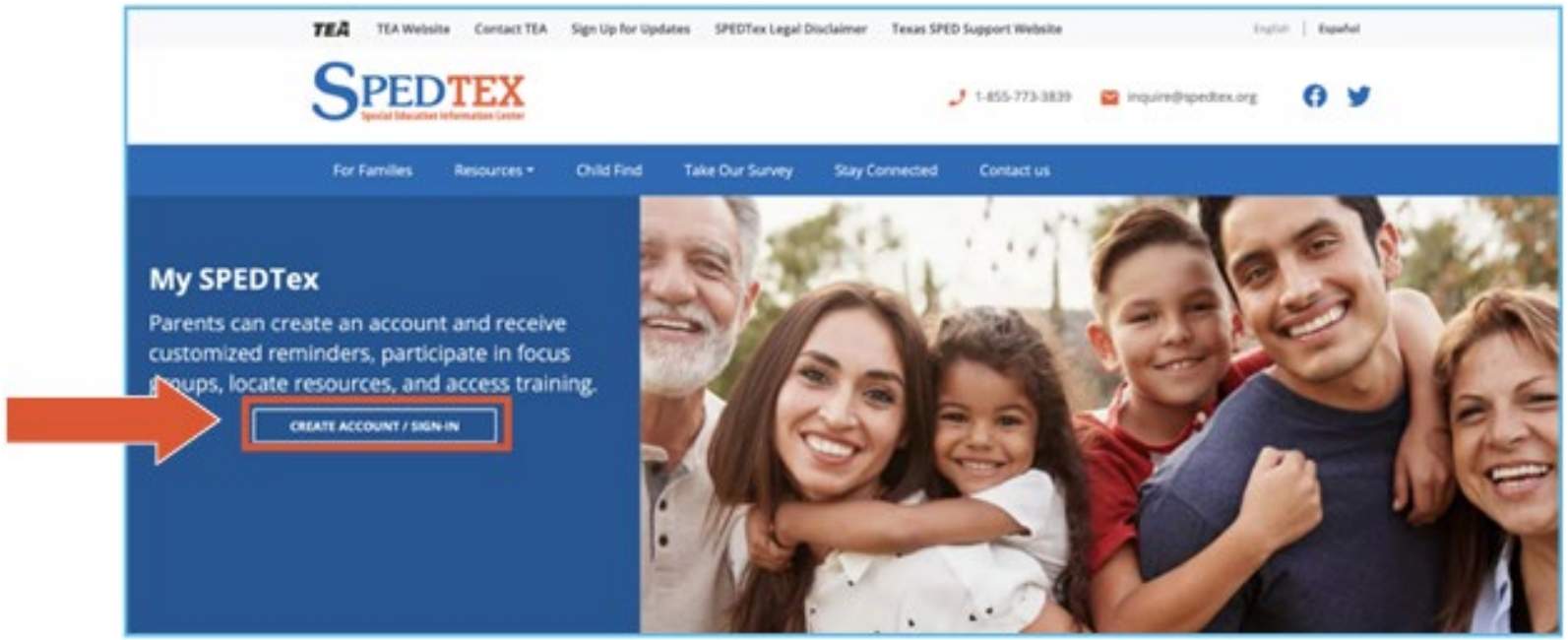


PDSES.TEA.TEXAS.GOV

1 Create or Log into your My SPEDTex Account

To apply for the PDSES grant, you must have a My SPEDTex Account.

- Go to the SPEDTex website
- On the homepage, click "Create Account/ Sign-In"

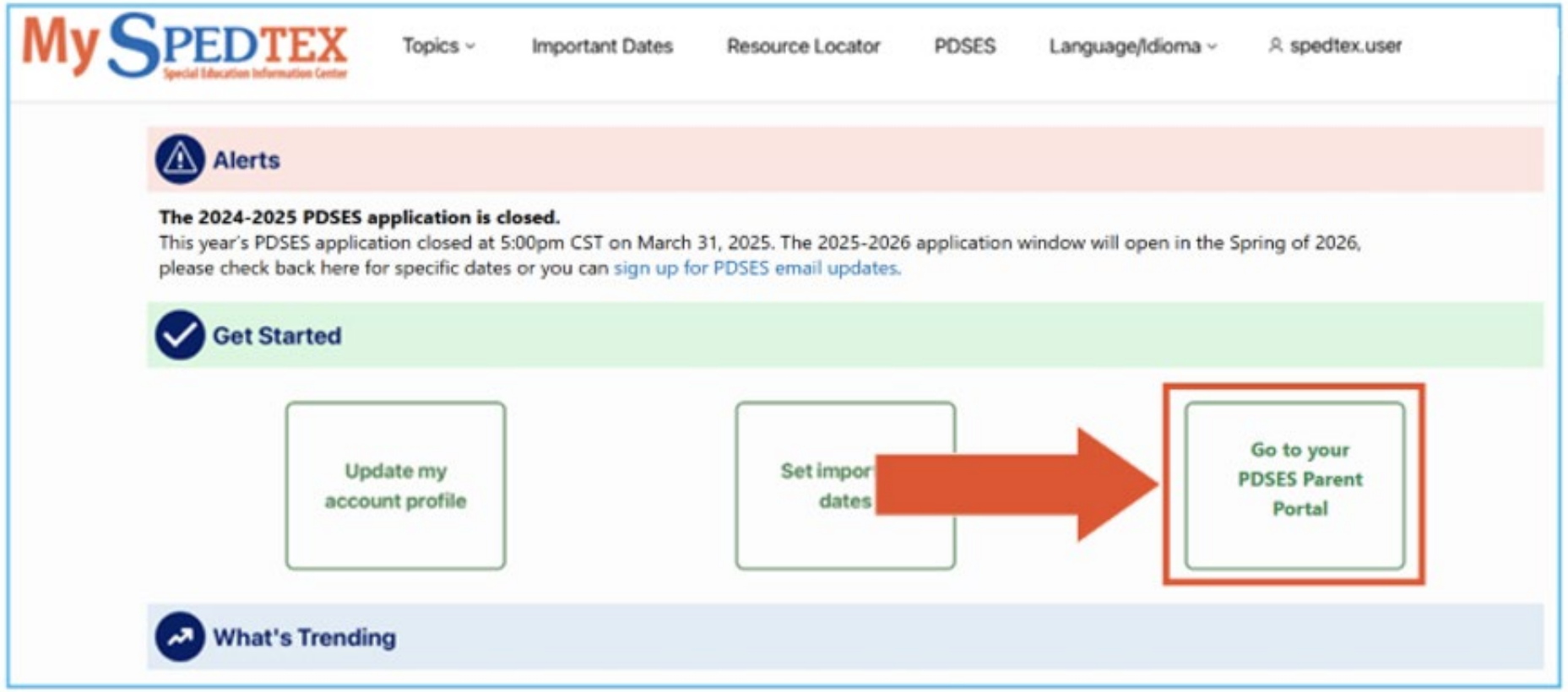


IMPORTANT: You MUST have a My SPEDTex Account to apply for the PDSES grant.

1 Go to your PDSES Parent Portal

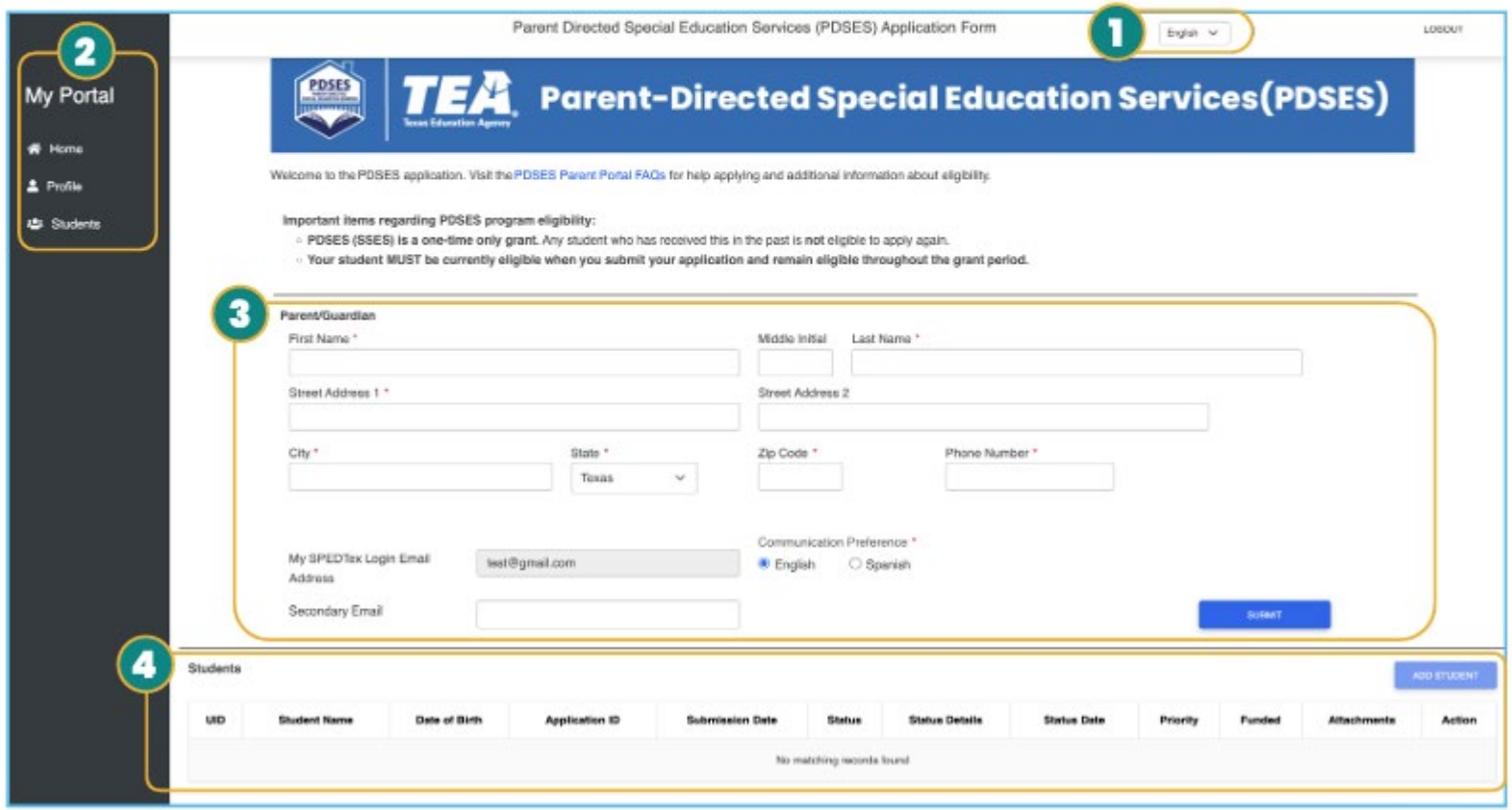
Texas Education Agency

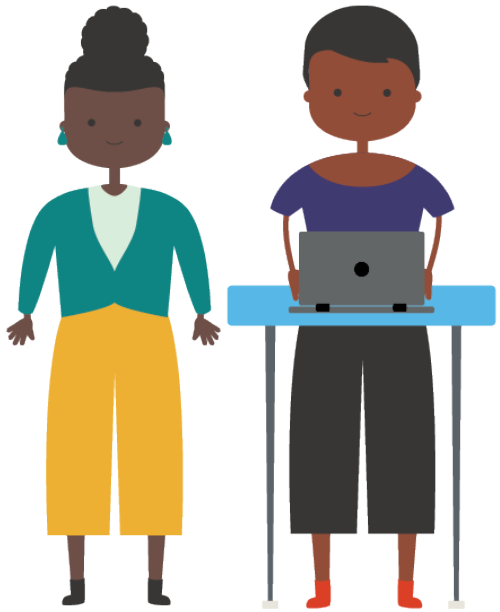
Once you are logged in to your MySPEDTex account, click **"Go to your PDSES Parent Portal"**



1 Parent Portal – Overview

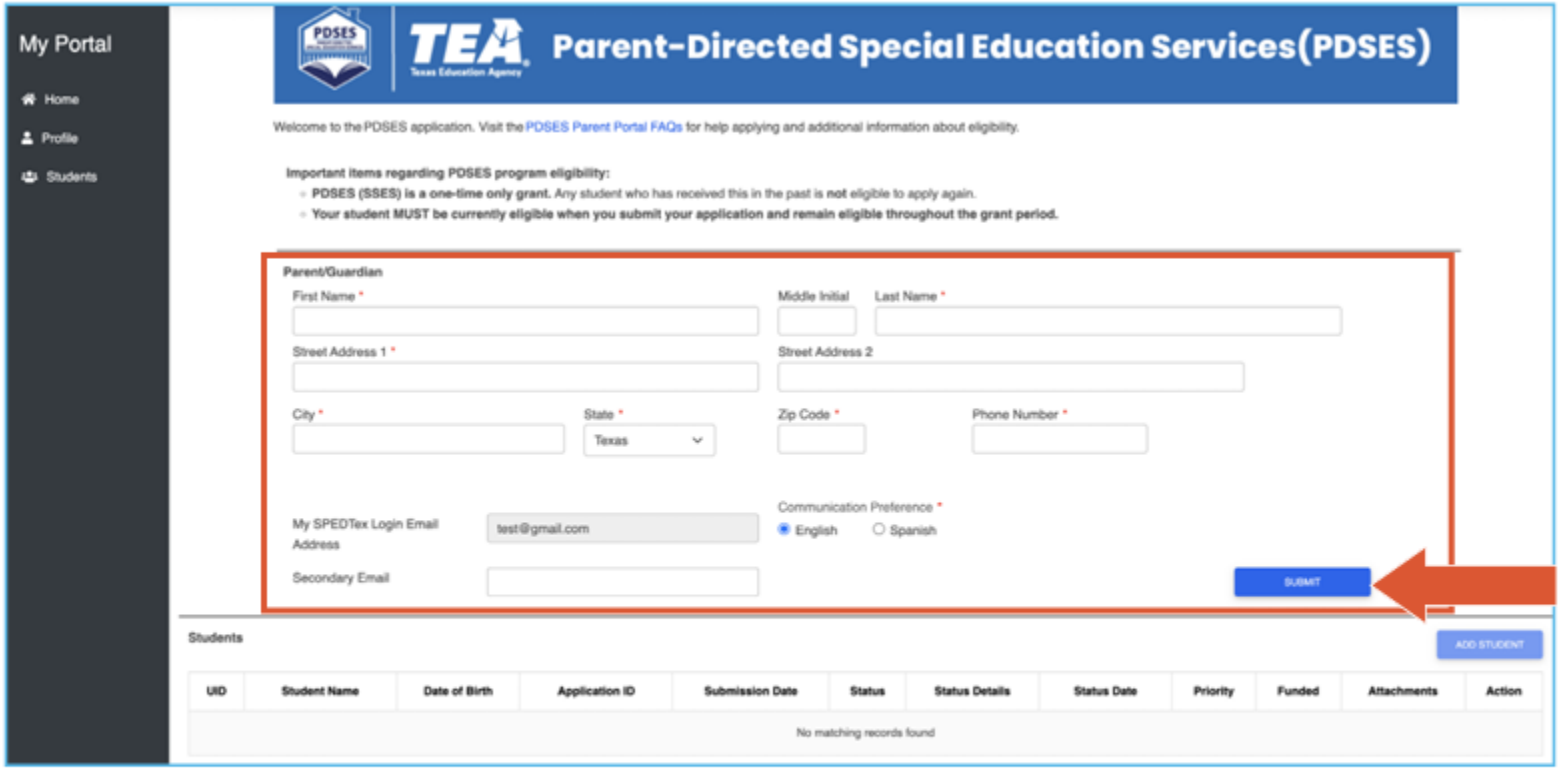
1. Language Selection
2. Navigation Panel
3. Parent/Guardian Information Section
4. Student Section





1 Parent Portal – Add contact information

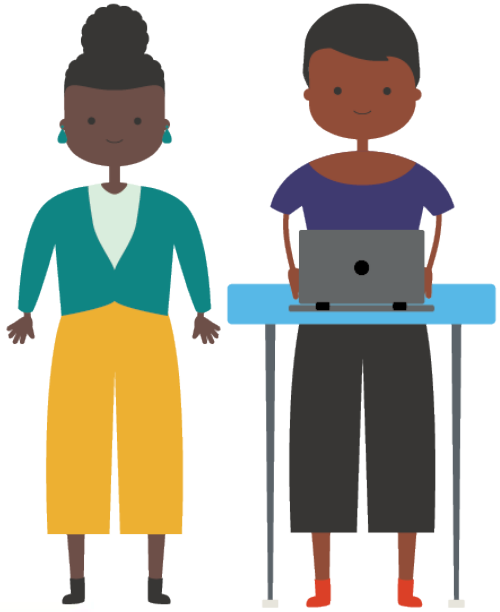
Once inside your parent portal, add your parent/guardian contact information and click "Submit."



NOTE: You can change your parent information at any time by clicking the "Edit" button. The "Edit" button will only appear after you have submitted. However, you CANNOT change your My SPEDTex Login Email. If you want to change your My SPEDTex account email, please reach out to SPEDTex by calling 855-773-3839 or emailing inquire@spedtex.org.

1 Parent Portal – Add student(s)

After submitting you contact information, click on “Add Student” to open the Student Lookup pop-up window.



1 Add student(s) – Student Lookup

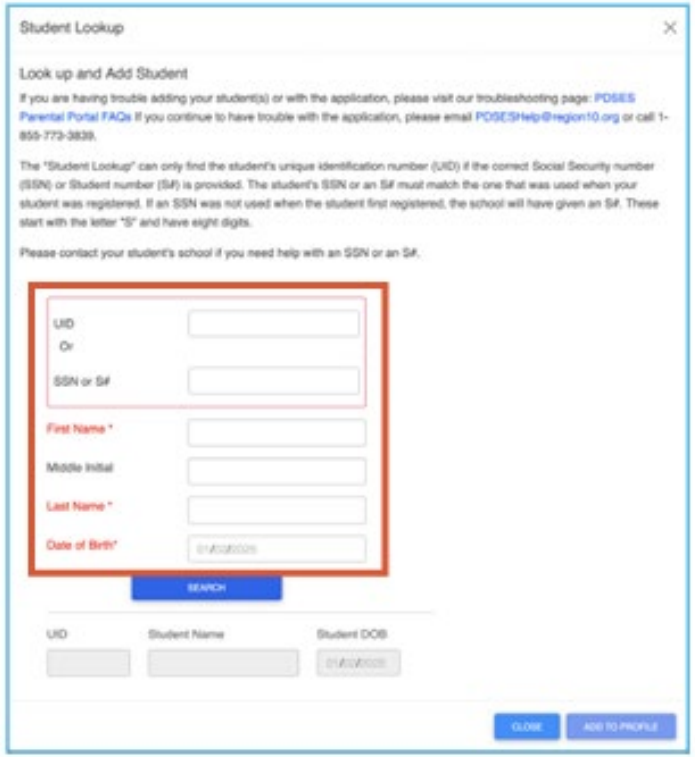
On the “Student Lookup” page, you will need to provide the following information for your student:

- Identification Number:
  - Unique Identification Number (UID)

  OR

  - Social Security Number (SSN) or State Alternate ID (S#)

- Student Information:
  - First Name
  - Last Name
  - Date of Birth



IMPORTANT: The information you provide MUST match state records. Include any special characters.

UIDs are different than a local ID provided by the district.

A UID is a 10-digit number given to each student in a Texas public school. It is used by the state to identify students without using their social security numbers. The UID is different from a local ID number that may be given by your school district (i.e., Student ID or District ID). You can use the “Student Lookup” in the PDSES Parent Portal in the “Add a Student” page OR, you can contact your student’s school.

1 Add student(s) – Student Lookup

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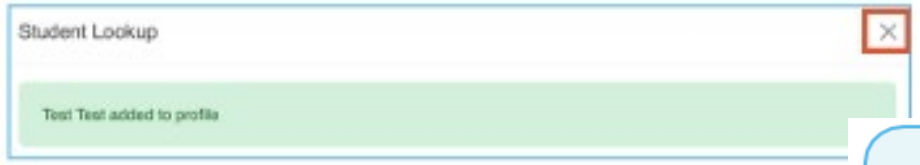
After entering all your student's information, the fields should be green. Next, click "Search"

You only need to enter your student's UID or their SSN/S#. The PDSES program does not collect or save SSNs or S#s.

If you have correctly entered your student's information, you will see their information underneath the search field. If this information is correct, click, "Add to Profile."

After you have successfully added your student, you will see a green pop-up saying that your student has been added to your profile.



If you receive an error message you can view the table of error messages.

2 Apply - The application opens April 1, 2025, 8am CST

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Before the application window opens -

Students

ADD STUDENT

UID	Student Name	Date of Birth	Application ID	Submission Date	Status	Status Details	Status Date	Priority	Funded	Attachments	Action
1234567890	Test Student	01-01-2010									

After the application window opens, you can click **"APPLY."**

Students

ADD STUDENT

UID	Student Name	Date of Birth	Application ID	Submission Date	Status	Status Details	Status Date	Priority	Funded	Attachments	Action
1234567890	Test Student	01-01-2010									APPLY

IMPORTANT: Adding your student to your profile does not mean that you have applied for your student. To do that you must wait for the application window to open and then click "Apply" next to your student's information on the homepage.

2 Apply

Texas Education Agency

Before you can click the “Submit Application” button, you must complete three steps:

PDSES Application

PDSES Account Activation Requirement:

All awarded applicants must complete the PDSES Account Activation Requirement within 30-days of the day their award notice was sent by email. Completing the PDSES Account Activation Requirement means that you must log on to your online ClassWallet Marketplace account and accept the PDSES Parental Acknowledgement and Agreement after you log in. If an awarded applicant does not complete the PDSES Account Activation Requirement within 30-days, account funds may be reclaimed.

1. * ☐ I agree to the above terms of the PDSES 30-Day Account Activation Requirement.
2. * ☐ I certify that I have legal authority to make educational decisions for the student(s) for which I am applying - and will provide documentation if requested. Note: if a person opens an account without this legal authority, the account is subject to cancelation.
3. * ☐ By providing my name, I certify the information provided in this application is accurate and true.

You only need to upload documentation if your student recently became eligible for PDSES (after October of the current school year). If your student:

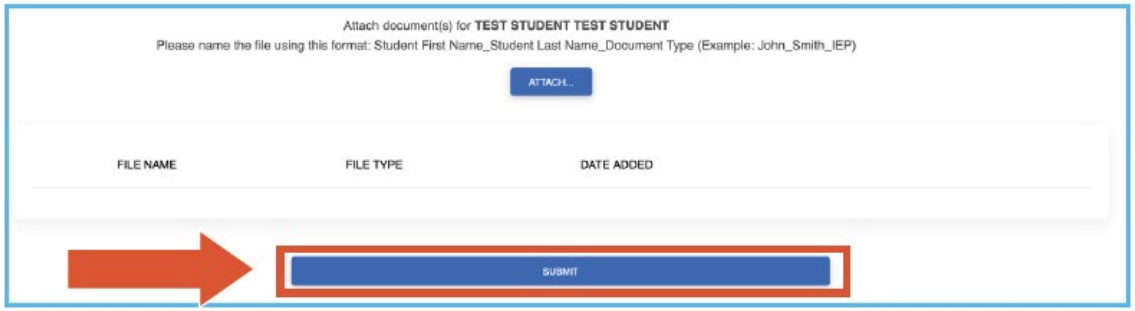
- **Began receiving special education services** - if you are applying for a student whose individualized education program (IEP) paperwork show special education services started after October of the current school year, you should upload their IEP as part of the application process.
- **Started attending a Texas public school** - if you are applying for a student that enrolled in a Texas public school after October of the current school year, you should upload their most recent IEP.

Digital files such as PDFs are required. You should contact your student's school for a digital copy of your student's IEP. If you need help, please visit this site for tips – PDSES Parent Portal FAQs.

The application opens April 1, 2025, 8am CST

2 Apply - Submit

After completing all required steps, click the “SUBMIT” button.



- If you have completed the application correctly, you will receive this message: “Application saved. You may close this page to exit.”

- When you return to your homepage, you will now see that the row for your student has an Application ID, Submission Date, Status, Status Details, Status Date, and the Action button now says “Cancel.”

Students

ADD STUDENT

UID	Student Name	Date of Birth	Application ID	Submission Date	Status	Status Details	Status Date	Priority	Funded	Attachments	Action
1234567890	Test Student	01-01-2010	24-0000111	02-03-2024	Submitted	--	02-03-2024	No	No	No	CANCEL

Uploading Documentation (if necessary)

When do parents need to upload documentation?

When did the student begin receiving services for special education **AND** when did they enroll in a Texas public school?

October 1, 2025

BEFORE → **No – documentation is likely NOT needed**

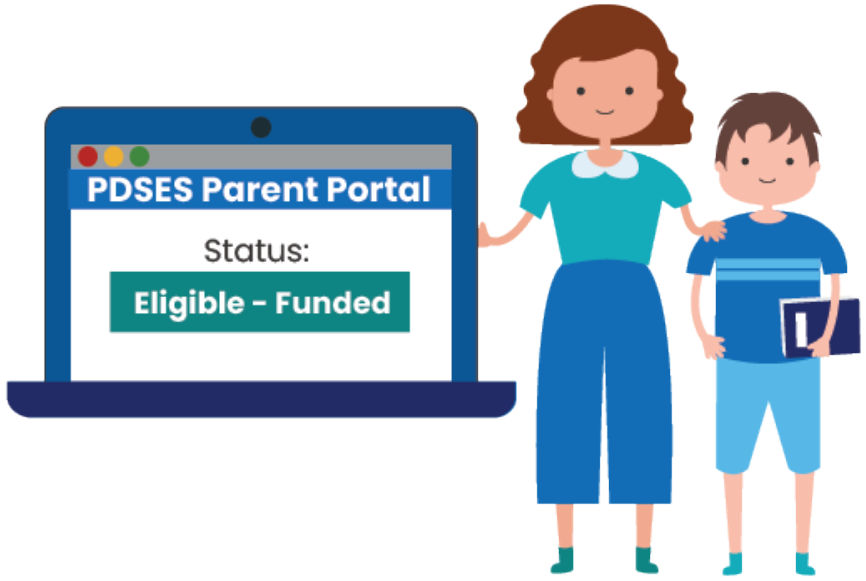
AFTER → **Yes – Documentation IS likely needed**

Parents can add documentation at the time they submit their application, or parents can log back into their PDSES parent portal and upload at any time before the application window closes.

Note: For most applications, state data will determine eligibility and the extra step of uploading documentation will not be necessary.

3 Check Your Status

- You can log back into your PDSES parent portal at anytime to check the status of your application.
  - *Applications will not be processed until after the application window has closed. Your status will remain "Submitted" or "Submitted with Attachments" until it is processed.*
- You will receive an email each time your application status changes.



Please be patient

It will take the PDSES team time to process your application and provide your award decision.

Once you are awarded a PDSES account...

You will receive an email from ClassWallet with instructions on accessing and using your account funds.

Access the PDSES Marketplace (ClassWallet) to purchase educational resources or services.

Complete the account activation within the first 30-days, including logging in and signing the PDSES Parental Agreement.

Spend grant funds before the purse deadline – you will receive this date in an email if you have been awarded an account.

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Shopping in the PDSES Marketplace

Online Marketplace

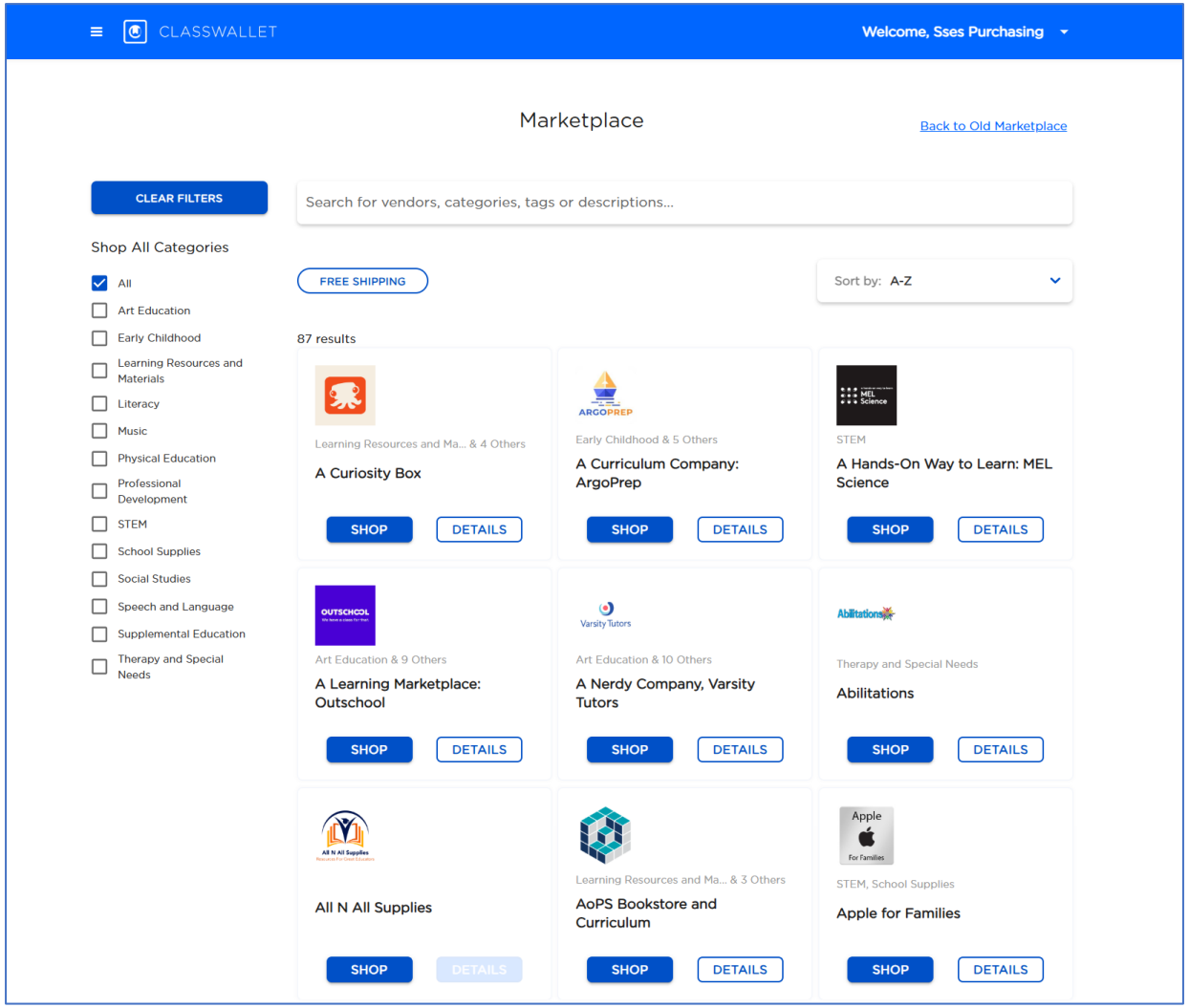
ClassWallet

The online marketplace for the PDSES program is ClassWallet. Students who are found to be eligible for the grant will be awarded a ClassWallet account.

Parents will be able to login to purchase educational goods and services from approved providers and vendors.

CLASSWALLET

Marketplace Vendors



Top 5 Items by Category

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School Supplies
• Crayons • Notebook Paper • Folders • Spiral Notebooks • Colored Pencils

Technology
• Apple MacBook • Apple iPad • Apple AirPods • HP Pavilion • HP Printer

Technology Accessories
• Apple Pencil • Copy Paper • Power Adapter/Charger • Printer Ink • Logitech Mouse

Sensory Items
• Sensory Beads • Hearing Protector Muffs • Fiber Optic Light • Sensory Viewers • Sensory Sand

Educational Materials
• Real Working Cash Register • Magnetic Write Wipe Board • Magna tiles • The Allowance game • Multiplication Machine

Educational Furniture
• Desk Chair • Computer Desk • Lap Desk • Storage bins • Flex Space Lap Desk

Therapeutic Items
• Photo Conversation Cards • Pencil Grips • Balance Ball Seat • Theraputty • Balance Cushion

Sports Equipment
• Tetherball Tennis • Jump Rope • Basketball • Soccer Ball • Football

Note: Sports equipment has a $100 threshold, and considerations are made for equipment that is used as part of P.E. or general curriculum.

Updated December 3, 2025

Top Rejected Items by Category

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Parents must follow PDSES purchasing guidelines when purchasing items for their student.

PDSES purchases must provide a direct educational benefit to the student.

PDSES* Purchasing Guidelines

As stated in the Parent Directed Special Education Services (PDSES) Parental Acknowledgment and Agreement, the funds in the PDSES Account are for the educational benefit of the eligible student(s) and are not to be used for other purposes. ***Items and services requested for purchase should be those that the student will directly use to access the educational curriculum***. More specifically, items and services requested should serve a direct educational benefit.

Families are allowed to purchase ONE computer (laptop or desktop) AND ONE tablet (iPad) per eligible student. Any additional requests for either of these items will not be allowed.

The following items **are NOT allowed** under PDSES purchasing guidelines:

- Cleaning supplies – including paper towels, dish soap, and mops/brooms/vacuums.
- Home goods – including coffee makers, kitchen items, tools, and appliances.
- Home security – including surveillance and doorbell cameras.
- Smart Speakers and Streaming Devices – including Alexa devices, Google Assistants, Rokus, and Firesticks.
- General furniture – NOT including desks, chairs, or organizational items for direct learning.
- Food or drinks – including bottles of water.
- Medical supplies – including first aid kits, thermometers, air purifiers, or hygiene items.

The following items have a price threshold – this list below does not include all possible thresholds:

- Headphones - $250
- Printers -$400
- Monitors - $300
- Desks - $300
- Desk Chairs - $200
- Sports equipment - $100
- Speakers - $100
- Microphones - $100

Additionally, items are subject to review based on the number of the same items requested. If it is determined to be an excessive quantity the order may be rejected.

If you are purchasing an item that may be considered questionable, or you wish to purchase an item that costs more than its threshold, you should provide a justification for your purchase request. This justification should highlight the direct educational benefit and the educational goal this product will help your child achieve.

**The PDSES program is the same as the SSES program, just with a new name to better reflect the importance of parents as decision makers in the educational process. "Any reference to Supplemental Special Education Services Program, supplemental special education services, supplemental special education services instructional materials, or SSES in state law and TEA materials is to be considered synonymous with the PDSES program." 19 TAC §102.1601(a).*

Not Allowed
• Cleaning Supplies • Home Goods • Smart Speakers and Streaming Devices • Home Security • General Furniture • Food or Drinks • Clothing • Medical Supplies

Price limits
• Headphones - $250 • Printers - $400 • Monitors - $300 • Desk - $300 • Desk Chair - $200 • Sports Equipment - $100 • Speakers - $100 • Microphone - $100

Updated December 3, 2025

Commonly Purchased Services

Tutoring	Counseling	Equine Therapy
Music Therapy	Speech Therapy	ABA Therapy
Camp	Dyslexia Therapy	Occupational Therapy

Service Provider Map

Texas Education Agency

Filter options to search for providers

Reset

Search...

Type

- Therapist (1,173)
- Academic Tutor (631)
- Specialized Service (161)

Category

- Select -

City

- Select -

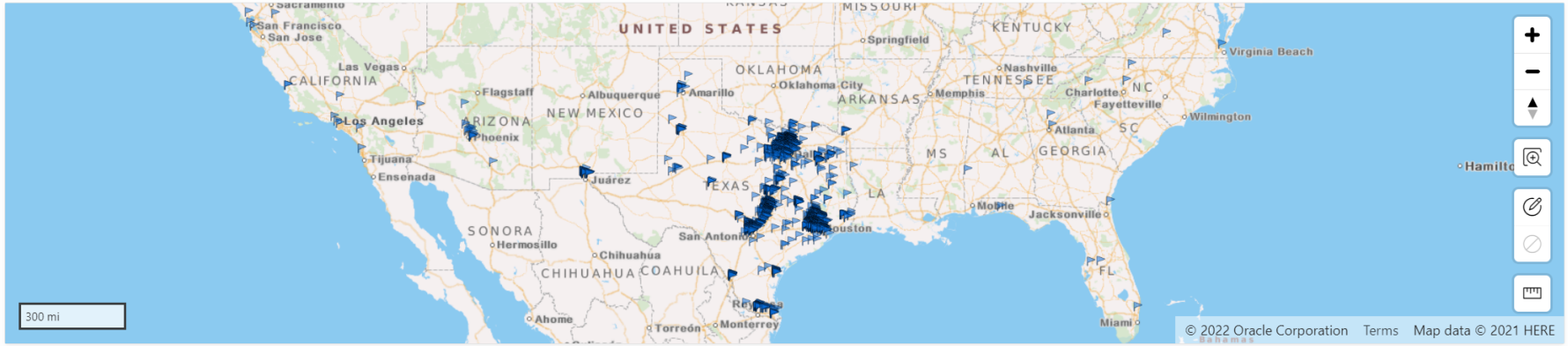
Zip

Go

Parent Directed Special Education Services (PDSES)

Español

Search for approved providers using the filters. You can search by type, category, city, and/or zip code. After an option is selected, the map will show a blue flag for each provider that meets your criteria and a list of providers will appear below the map. To see the provider's contact information, you can click on a blue flag on the map or view the results in the table below the map. If you need assistance or would like to add a provider, please reach out to pdseshelp@region10.org



The information below can be sorted by clicking on a column heading.

Rows 50

Map	Vendor Display Name	Type	Specialization	Category	State	City	Address	Zip	Phone
	Success Center for Learning	Academic Tutor	Tutoring - Math; Tutoring - Reading	Tutoring	Texas	Paris	2755 NE Loop 286	75460	(903) 737-2900
	Awaken Hearts Academy	Academic Tutor	Tutoring - General	Tutoring	Arizona	Virtual	6528 W Eagle Talon Trail	85083	(480) 268-4373
	Growth Reading Center	Academic Tutor	Tutoring - General	Tutoring	Iowa	Virtual	1300 NE 56th Street	50317	(563) 549-3150
	LadiQuin Enterprise	Academic Tutor	Tutoring - General	Tutoring	Georgia	Virtual	2724 Wesley Chapel Rd	30034	(404) 490-0046
	Unlocking Potential Educational Services, LLC	Academic Tutor	Tutoring - General	Tutoring	Texas	Virtual	18 Lakesite Dr	37327	(702) 218-8193

bit.ly/PDSESProviders

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Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a My SPEDTex account to apply?

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Do students who attend private school qualify?

What about 504 students?

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What if my student is in the process of being evaluated for special education when the application opens?

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The award decision email says, “Waiting to Be Funded.”

What’s next?

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The award decision email says, “your student is **not eligible** for the PDSES program.” If a parent believes the student is eligible, what should they do?

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Once a ClassWallet account is awarded, is there a time limit to login or an activation requirement?

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What can parents purchase with their PDSES funds?

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Can parents be reimbursed for goods and/or services they purchase?

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Need help?

The PDSES Team:

PDSEShelp@region10.org or 1-855-773-3839, for:

- General PDSES questions
- Questions about the PDSES application
- Finding or adding a service provider
- Ordering from a Direct Pay vendor
- General online marketplace questions
- Order status
- Account access

YOUR SOURCE

FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION INFORMATION

SPEDTEX
Special Education Information Center

1.855.773.3839
WWW.SPEDTEX.ORG

Collaborative Project

TEA Texas Education Agency

Region 10 ESC

Follow Us

SpedTex

@ spedtex

As a reminder...

The application opens April 1, 2026, 8am CST

What can parents do before the application opens?

1. **Visit PDSES.TEA.TEXAS.GOV** to learn more about the program.
2. **Join the Email List -** the PDSES program team will send out updates and reminders through email.
3. **Create a MySPEDTex account** (if you don't already have one).
4. **Set up your PDSES Parent Portal and add your students**.

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Thank you!