



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Michael Sentance, J.D., LL.M.
State Superintendent of Education

March 3, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Michael Sentance *MS*
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference Student Scholarship

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC) is a Virginia non-profit corporation created over 67 years ago to host an annual conference focused on educating student transportation professionals working in the southeast. The member southeastern states are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The conference has been held annually since 1951. Each state is allowed to nominate 25 delegates to attend the annual conference. During the last few years, with the support of industry vendors, the SESPTC has accumulated funds that the SESPTC Board of Directors has decided to disburse in the form of student education scholarships. This year the SESPTC Board has approved one \$2,500 scholarship to be awarded to a deserving student in each of the 14 southeastern states. The scholarship funds must be used to cover education expenses at a postsecondary educational institution and will be paid to the institution in support of a student's 2017-2018 school year expenses.

The enclosed scholarship documents provide additional information about the scholarship, including parent and student qualifications, the application form, required supporting documentation, and the selection process to determine deserving students.

To qualify, a parent/guardian family must have a gross taxable income less than \$75,000 for each of the past five tax years and a parent/guardian of the student must have been actively employed in public school transportation for the past five years. A student qualifies by graduating from a public high school and then attending a postsecondary educational institution in 2017. The \$2,500 scholarship can be used for any part of the student's 2017-2018 school year tuition, books, or fees.

To assure that all eligible students have an opportunity to apply for this scholarship, please help distribute this information to your transportation staff and high school counselors. Eligible applicants include any of the following transportation staff: bus drivers, bus aides/monitors, bus mechanics, directors of student transportation services, bus supervisors, bus driver trainers, bus safety inspectors, and many other positions either employed by a school district, their contractors, a state school, or the Alabama State Department of Education.

Applications are due no later than April 28, 2017, and the awards will be announced prior to May 31, 2017.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this information.

MS/CC/JL

Enclosures

cc: City and County Transportation Supervisors
Mr. Andy Craig
Mr. Chad Carpenter

FY17-3015

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SOUTHEASTERN STATES PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

2017

BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC), comprised of fourteen member states including will announce the **2017 Buster Bynum Education Scholarship at the SESPTC in North Carolina in addition to each local state announcing the winners.** Named in honor of R. A. “Buster” Bynum, retired Director of the Virginia Department of Education’s pupil transportation office and former SESPTC treasurer, this one-time \$2,500 education scholarship is made available to one deserving public school student in each of the fourteen-member southeastern states.

Qualifications

1. The parent/guardian listed on application had a Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the “Past Three Tax Years.” (For the purpose of this scholarship award, the “Past Three Tax Years” is defined as the 2014, 2015 and 2016 tax years.)
2. The parent/guardian listed on application has been an active employee in public school transportation during the “Past Three Years.” This includes school bus drivers, aides, monitors, mechanics, parts clerks, foremen, managers, trainers, supervisors, directors, and inspectors that work in public education. (For the purpose of this scholarship award, the “Past Three Years” work history requirement is defined as the period since January 1, 2014.)
3. The student applicant has at least a 3.0 (B) scholastic average, will graduate from a public high school, and will attend a post-secondary educational institution starting in 2017.
4. The scholarship cannot be awarded to any student who has a family member serving on the selection committee.

Submission of Application and Timeline (Dates need to be added for your state)

1. _____ (Date) – Applications are due to the local school system transportation office in your county.
2. _____ (Date) – Entry mailed to state (postmarked by _____, 2017.) A local selection committee established in each school system shall select from all local applicants a finalist whose application must be submitted to the STATE SESPTC Scholarship Selection Committee. Only one application from each school system will be judged at the state level. Applications shall not be submitted to the state by student applicants.
3. _____ (Date) – The state SESPTC Scholarship Selection Committee will select the state’s winner.

Buster Bynum Education Scholarship

Application

(Application must be typed)

APPLICANT PERSONAL INFORMATION

The parent/guardian on behalf of his or her child must submit the application.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(Must have been a school transportation employee since **January 1, 2014.**)

Parent/Guardian's Address: _____

Street	City	State	Zip

Parent/Guardian's Phone Number: () -

Name of the Organization Employing the Parent/Guardian: _____

Employer Organization's Contact Person: _____

Employer Contact Person's Phone Number: () -

Name of Student: _____

Name of School from which the student will graduate in 2017:

Address of School: _____

Street	City	State	Zip

I certify, as parent/guardian of _____ that the combined family income of both parents/guardians did not exceed \$75,000 for each of the past 3 years beginning with 2014.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____

Selection Criteria

Selection of applicants will be based on the following criteria:

- **Scholarship (25 points)** - The student shall have a cumulative grade point average (grades 9 – 11) of 3.0 (B) minimum, as verified by official high school academic records.
- **Leadership (15 points)** - The student shall have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and abilities in co-curricular activities and community service activities.
- **Citizenship/Service (25 points)** – The student shall have demonstrated exemplary citizenship qualities that include not only maturity, loyalty, responsibility, integrity, and trustworthiness; but also a concern for the well-being of all citizens and shall have rendered unselfish service and assistance to others, to the school, and to the community.
- **Essay (35 points)** - The student shall have explained in a **typewritten** essay of not more than 500 words Why he/she applied for the scholarship and how the scholarship will be used.

SECTION II SCHOLARSHIP: EDUCATIONAL DATA (PLEASE ENCLOSE TRANSCRIPT)

School now attending: _____

Class Rank: _____

In class of: _____ (Number)

CEEB/SAT/ACT Test: _____

GPA: _____ (Score)

College(s) / Vocational Technical School(s) to which you seek admission.

1. _____	Accepted?	Yes _____	No _____
2. _____	Accepted?	Yes _____	No _____
3. _____	Accepted?	Yes _____	No _____

List any part-time or full-time work experience.

SECTION III: LEADERSHIP/INVOLVEMENT/LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

List all co-curricular activities in which you have participated, including honors and awards.

List athletics in which you have participated in.

List community service activities or projects in which you have participated.

List any special interests or hobbies.

Why do you desire to continue your education?

SECTION IV: ESSAY

Using the space provided below, please describe why you have applied for the scholarship and how you would use the scholarship. **Essay must be typed in 500 words or less.** Applicants should proofread their essays for grammar, spelling and syntax.

SECTION V: REFERENCES/CERTIFICATIONS

1. Please provide a letter from the parent/guardian's employer verifying employment in public school transportation since January 1, 2014, and documenting financial need (Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the past three tax years).
2. Please provide a letter from the student's high school guidance counselor or other authorized high school official verifying the student's grade point average, anticipated graduation from high school and planned attendance at a postsecondary educational institution in the fall of 2017.
3. Please provide a letter of support from one school staff member and one adult family acquaintance of the student, stating why the award should be made to this student.

SECTION VI: SUBMISSION – CHECKLIST

Please check to make sure you have submitted all documentation below:

- _____ Completed Application Form, Signed
- _____ 500 Word (Maximum) Essay included in this application
- _____ Official High School Transcript

Letters for each:

- _____ Verified Parent/Guardian transportation employment since January 1, 2014
- _____ High School Counselor/authorized high school official statement of student's grade point average, anticipated graduation, planned attendance at a postsecondary education institution in the fall of 2017
- _____ Support letter from two adults – teachers and adult family acquaintances of the student

**PLEASE CHECK THE APPLICATION FOR COMPLETENESS BEFORE SIGNING BELOW.
APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN _____.**

Date of Application

Signature of Applicant

Signature of School Official

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Title of School Official

****FOR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY****

The Local Scholarship Selection Committee will use this section in order to certify the selected local applicant to the state selection committee.

LOCAL APPLICANT CERTIFICATION
TO STATE SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

Signature: _____
(Local Scholarship Selection Committee Chairperson)

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____
(Local Director of Transportation)

Print Name: _____

School System: _____ Telephone: _____

THE LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE WILL SELECT ONLY ONE
APPLICATION FROM THE SCHOOL DIVISION AND FORWARD IT FOR
STATE COMPETITION TO:

Chad Carpenter, Administrator
Pupil Transportation
Alabama Department of Education
P. O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130
334-242-9730