



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Ed Richardson  
Interim State Superintendent of Education

February 21, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** *ESR*  
Ed Richardson  
Interim 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 68 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 2018-2019 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 \$80,000 for each of the past three tax years and a parent/guardian of the student must have been actively employed in public school transportation for the past three years. A student qualifies by graduating from a public high school and then attending a postsecondary educational institution in 2018. The \$2,500 scholarship can be used for any part of the student's 2018-2019 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. Only one application from each school system or district will be judged at the state level. Applications shall not be submitted to the state by student applicants.

Applications are due no later than April 27, 2018, and the awards will be announced prior to May 31, 2018.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this information.

ER/CC/JL

Enclosures

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

FY18-3017

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Ed Richardson  
Interim Secretary and  
Executive Officer

**SOUTHEASTERN STATES PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE**

**2018**

**BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC), comprised of fourteen member states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia) will announce the **2018 Buster Bynum Education Scholarship at the Joint Conference with FAPT in Florida 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 \$80,000 for each of the "Past Three Tax Years." (For the purpose of this scholarship award, the "Past Three Tax Years" is defined as the 2015, 2016 and 2017 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, 2015.)
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 2018.
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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.) 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.



**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.

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**SECTION III: LEADERSHIP/INVOLVEMENT/LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

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

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List athletics in which you have participated in.

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

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List any special interests or hobbies.

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Why do you desire to continue your education?

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**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, 2015, and documenting financial need (Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than \$80,000 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 2018.
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, 2015
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 2018
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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*