

Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC)
Buster Bynum Scholarship
Information, Instructions, and Application

Part A--INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Section I Information and Qualifying Criteria

1. Buster Bynum \$1,000 scholarships are being awarded to two deserving students in each state whose parents/guardians work in school transportation. A student qualifies by graduating from a public high school and attending a post-secondary educational institution starting in 2012. The scholarship funds must be used to cover education expenses at a post-secondary educational institution and will be paid to the institution in support of the student's 2012-13 school year expenses. The scholarship can be used for any part of the student's 2012-13 college tuition, books or fees.
2. Each state recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship will be a high school senior from an SESPTC member state who has a parent or guardian actively employed in the public school pupil transportation field for at least the past five years. Eligible applicants include any of the following transportation staff: bus operators, bus attendants, service technicians and inspectors, directors of student transportation services, supervisors, bus driver trainers, and other positions either employed by the school district, their contractors, a state school, or the state department of education. For the purpose of this scholarship award, the past five years work history requirement is defined as the period starting January 1, 2007.
3. To qualify, a parent/guardian's family must have a Gross Taxable Income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the past five tax years. For the purpose of this scholarship award, the past five tax years is defined as the 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 tax years.
4. The student must have at least a 3.0 (B) scholastic average, graduate from a public high school, and attend a post-secondary educational institution starting in 2012.
5. Each applicant shall be required to submit a typewritten essay of not more than 500 words that explains why the student has applied and how the student will use the scholarship if named the recipient. The essay must be submitted at the time of application. Applicants are encouraged to proofread their essays for spelling, grammar, and syntax.
6. In addition to the above qualifications, selection of applicants will be based on the following criteria:
 - * **Scholarship** - 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** - The student shall have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and abilities in co-curricular activities and community service activities.
- * **Citizenship** - 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.
- * **Service** - The student shall have rendered unselfish service and assistance to others, to the school, and to the community.
- * **Essay** - 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 Required Documentation

The SESPTC Scholarship Application must include the following documentation:

1. A copy of the completed application form (attached herein).
2. A letter from the parent/guardian's most recent employer verifying employment in public school transportation starting January 1, 2007, or earlier, and documenting financial need (Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the past five tax years, 2007 through 2011).
3. 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 post-secondary educational institution in 2012.
4. A letter of support from a teacher or adult family acquaintance of the student stating why the award should be made to this student.
5. A typewritten essay of not more than 500 words that explains why the student has applied and how the student will use the scholarship if named the recipient.

Section III Deadlines and Procedure for Submission

1. In the second semester of their senior year, students who meet the general criteria will complete the enclosed application in which information supporting excellence in the five areas above will be noted. The application must be typed and contain all information requested, plus the required documentation noted in Section II above. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.** Additional copies of this Information, Instructions, and Application document are available from each local transportation office. Completed applications should be submitted to the local Director of Transportation or the local scholarship selection committee chairperson.

2. The Application Form and required documentation must be completed and received **no later than May 1, 2012.**
3. Forms and documentation may be submitted by the deadline by e-mail to bsheew@access.k12.wv.us, but a signed hard copy will also be required before the application will be considered. Persons submitting the initial application by e-mail will receive a return e-mail confirming receipt. If you do not receive this confirmation, please call Sherry Sadler at (304)558-2711 as soon as possible.

Section IV Selection Committee and Award Process

1. The state selection committee will consist of representatives from various sectors of the West Virginia school transportation community and will be determined by the President of the West Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (www.wvapt.org). The SESPTC West Virginia State Scholarship Selection Committee will select the state's final, successful applicants.
2. A selection committee established in each school system or district shall select from all local applicants a finalist whose application must be submitted to the SESPTC West Virginia State Scholarship Selection Committee **no later than May 1, 2012.**
3. The scholarship awards will be issued prior to August 1, 2012 to the post-secondary schools the students attend. The scholarship cannot be awarded to any family member serving on the selection committee.
4. Only one application from each school system or district will be judged at the state level. Applications shall not be submitted directly to the state Selection Committee by student applicants.
5. The finalist will be notified by the West Virginia Director of School Transportation no later than June 1, 2012.
6. More information on the program can be found at www.sesptc.com and www.wvapt.org .

SECTION II

EDUCATIONAL DATA

(USE N/A IF FIELD IS NOT APPLICABLE)

1. School now attending: _____

Class Rank: _____ **In class of:** _____

Number

CEEBSAT/ACT Test _____ **GPA:** _____

Score

2. College(s) /Vocational/Technical school(s) to which you seek admission:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. State your present status regarding acceptance at colleges/schools listed above:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

(If additional space is needed for the above items, please attach a separate sheet.)

4. Why do you desire to continue your education?

SECTION IV WORK EXPERIENCE

1. List any part-time or full-time work experience(s):

2. List any special interest or hobbies:

SECTION V ESSAY

Please describe in a typed essay of **500 words or less** why you have applied for the scholarship and how you would use the scholarship. You must submit the essay as an attachment to your application.

SECTION VI REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The SESPTC Scholarship Application must include the following documentation:

1. A copy of the completed application form (attached herein).
2. A letter from the parent/guardian's most recent employer verifying employment in public school transportation starting January 1, 2007, or earlier, and documenting financial need (Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the past five tax years, 2007 through 2011).
3. 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 post-secondary educational institution in 2012.
4. A letter of support from a teacher or adult family acquaintance of the student stating why the award should be made to this student.
5. A typewritten essay of not more than 500 words that explains why the student has applied and how the student will use the scholarship if named the recipient.

Please check the application for completeness before signing below. Applications must be sent by the local selection committee for receipt by the SESPTC West Virginia State Scholarship Selection Committee no later than May 1, 2012.

Date of Application

Signature of Applicant

Signature of High School Principal

Signature of Parent/Guardian

FOR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

The Local Scholarship Selection Committee will use this section to certify the selected local applicant to the state director and 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 MUST RETURN ONLY ONE APPLICATION SELECTED BY YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR RECEIPT ON OR BEFORE May 1, 2012, TO:

**SESPTC West Virginia State Scholarship Selection Committee
c/o Ben Shew, Executive Director, School Transportation
West Virginia Department of Education
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Building 6. Room 215
Charleston, WV 25305-0330
bshew@access.k12.wv.us**

NOTE: If sending application and related attachments by e-mail, please confirm receipt of electronic copy by the specified deadline. If you do not receive an e-mail reply confirming receipt, please call Sherry Sadler at (304) 558-2711. A signed, hard copy

must also be received before any application will be considered. Receipt of hard copy is required, but receipt of an electronic copy by the deadline is also preferred.