

**2008 Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC)
Buster Bynum Education Scholarship**

This is a one-time \$1,000 education scholarship award made to two deserving public school students in each of the fourteen-member southeastern states. These states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The scholarship awards are made to the postsecondary school selected by the awarded student.

Application Form Must Be Completed and Received On or Before April 30, 2008

SESPTC Award Guidelines

1. The parent/guardian listed above had a Gross Taxable Family 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 are defined as the 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 tax years.)
2. The parent/guardian listed above has been an active employee in public school transportation during the past five years. This includes employees as 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 five year's work history requirement is defined as the period since January 1, 2003.)
3. The student applicant above has at least a 3.0 (B) scholastic average, will graduate from a public high school, and will attend a postsecondary educational institution in the fall of 2008.

The SESPTC Scholarship Application must include the following letters of reference:

1. A letter from the parent/guardian's most recent employer verifying employment in public school transportation since January 1, 2003, and documenting financial need (Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the past five tax years).
2. 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 2008.
3. A letter of support from a teacher or an adult family acquaintance of the student, stating why the award should be made to this student.

State Selection Committee

There shall be a three-member State Selection Committee appointed by the recognized state director of pupil transportation services, and this committee will include:

- A school district transportation director
- A high school counselor
- A school bus maintenance shop foreman or shop supervisor

Each committee member will have one vote. By majority vote, the committee will have total authority to select the state scholarship winner based on the above qualifications and any additional factors the committee deems appropriate.

Award Process

Prior to August 1, 2008, the scholarship award will be made to the postsecondary institution that the student will attend. The scholarship cannot be awarded to any student who has a family member serving on the selection committee.

Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference Buster Bynum Scholarship
Application Information and Instructions

2008

Section I Applicant Personal Information

1. Each state recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship must be a high school senior from a SESPTC member state that has a parent or guardian employed in the public school pupil transportation field for at least the past five years. (Since January 1, 2003)
2. 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.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND PLANS FOR AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. In the second semester of their senior year, students who meet the general criteria will complete an application in which information supporting excellence in the five areas above will be noted. The application must be typed and contain all information requested. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.** Applications are available from each local transportation office. Completed applications should be submitted to the local Supervisor/Director of Transportation or the local scholarship selection committee chairperson.
2. Additionally, each applicant shall be required to submit a typed-written essay of not more than 500 words, which explains why the student has applied and how the student would use the scholarship if selected. The essay must be submitted at the time of application and applicants are encouraged to proofread their essays for spelling, grammar, and syntax.
3. A **local selection committee** established in each school system or district shall select from all local applicants a finalist whose application must be submitted to the State SESPTC Scholarship Selection Committee ***no later than April 30, 2008***. 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.
4. The State SESPTC Scholarship Selection Committee will select the state's final applicants.
5. The finalist will be notified by the State Director of Pupil Transportation Services no later than May 30, 2008.
6. Official presentation of the scholarships will take place at the annual Pupil Transportation Summer Conference held in July. Applicants do not have to be present to receive the scholarship award.

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 director and 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 SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE WILL RETURN ONLY ONE APPLICATION
SELECTED BY YOUR SCHOOL SYSTEM OR DISTRICT TO:**

***Ben Shew, Executive Director
Office of School Transportation
West Virginia Department of Education
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.
Bldg. 6, Room 315
Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-2711***