

**2014 Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC)
Buster Bynum Education Scholarship Award**

Application

Qualifying Criteria

Buster Bynum Scholarship is a one-time \$2,500 education award made to one deserving public school student 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.

1. Each state recipient of the \$2,500 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. Eligible applicants are any of the following transportation staff: school bus operators, bus attendants, bus driver trainers, service technicians and inspectors, directors of student transportation services, supervisors, monitors, mechanics, parts clerks, foremen, 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 since January 1, 2009.)
2. To qualify the parent/guardian family must have a gross taxable income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the past five years." (For the purpose of this scholarship award, the past five tax years are defined as the 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 tax years.)
3. The student must have 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 2014.
4. Each applicant shall be required to submit a typewritten 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.
5. In addition to the above, 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.

Required 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 since January 1, 2009, and documenting financial need (Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the past five tax years | 2009 through 2013).
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 high school graduation date, and planned attendance at a postsecondary educational institution in the fall of 2014.
4. 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.
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.

Procedures for Submission and Deadlines

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 (only original and completed application and required documentation will be considered)**. Applications are available from each local transportation office. Completed applications should be submitted to the local Supervisor/Director of Transportation.
2. The completed application and required documentation must be received on or before **May 12, 2014** and mailed to: Shirley Williams, Louisiana Department of Education, Division of Healthy Communities, School Bus Transportation Program at 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802. 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.

Selection Committee and Award Process

1. There shall be a minimum of a three-member State Selection Committee appointed by the recognized state director of pupil transportation services, and this committee may include: a school district transportation director, supervisor, administrative assistant, a high school counselor, SDE personnel, school principal, school bus maintenance shop foreman or shop supervisor.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The finalist will be notified by the Louisiana Director of School Transportation no later than **June 16, 2014**.
5. Official presentation of the scholarships will take place at the annual Pupil Transportation Summer Conference held in **June 29 through July 2, 2014**. Applicants do not have to be present to receive the scholarship award.
6. Prior to **August 1, 2014**, 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 (SESPTC)
Buster Bynum Scholarship Application

(Application must be typed. The parent/guardian must submit the application on behalf of his/her child)

Application Form Must Be Completed and Received On or Before **May 12, 2014**

SECTION I

APPLICANT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
*(Must have been a school transportation employee since **January 1, 2009**)*

Parent/Guardian Address: _____
Street City Zip Code

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Name of Student: _____

School Student will graduate in 2014: _____

Address of School: _____
Street City Zip Code

Organization Employing the Parent/Guardian: _____

Organization Contact Person: _____

Employer Address: _____
Street City Zip Code

Employer Contact Phone: _____

SECTION II

EDUCATIONAL DATA *(Use N/A if field is not applicable)*

1. School now attending: _____ GPA: _____
Class Rank: _____ In class of: _____ CEEB/SAT/ACT Test Score:

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

3. Have you been accepted at any of the above schools? If so, which one(s)?

SECTION III

ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS *(If additional space is needed, please attach a separate sheet.)*

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

2. List all athletics in which you have participated:

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

4. Why do you desire to continue your education?

SECTION IV

WORK EXPERIENCE

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

2. List any special interest or hobbies:

SECTION V

ESSAY

Please describe in a typed essay, **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. Please check the application for completeness before signing below. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 12, 2014.***)

Signature of Applicant

Date of Application

Signature of High School Principal

Signature of Parent/Guardian

FOR DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

The District Scholarship Selection Committee will use this section in order to certify the selected applicant to the Department of Education State Director Selection Committee.

Signature: _____
District Scholarship Selection Committee Chairperson

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____
District Director of Transportation

Print Name: _____

School System: _____ *Telephone Number:* _____

***THE DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE
WILL RETURN ONLY ONE APPLICATION SELECTED BY YOUR SCHOOL SYSTEM
FOR RECEIPT ON OR BEFORE MAY 12, 2014***

TO:

*Shirley Williams, Education Program Consultant
Pupil Transportation
Louisiana Department of Education
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802*

*Phone: 225.342.3515
Email: Shirley.Williams@la.gov*