

SOUTHEASTERN STATES PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

2025

BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC) comprises 14 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. The conference annually awards a \$2,000 Buster Bynum Education Scholarship, named in honor of the Virginia Department of Education's retired pupil transportation director and former treasurer of SESPTC, to one deserving public-school senior in each of the states mentioned above.

Qualifications

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 this scholarship award, the "Past Three Tax Years" is defined as the 2022, 2023 and 2024 tax years.)

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, 2022.)

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 2025.

The scholarship cannot be awarded to any student who has a family member serving on the selection committee.

Submission of Application and Timeline

- **Date determined by local school district**– Applications are due to your local school transportation office.
- 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.
- **May 1, 2025**– Entry should be mailed to School Transportation Management Section, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 834, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.
- **June 1, 2025**- The state SESPTC Scholarship Selection Committee will select the state's winner. Information on the scholarship winner will be sent to Derek Graham, Treasurer, SESPTC, by June 1, 2025. His email address is derek@DGrahamconsulting.com. Attached is the form to submit the information on the scholarship winner.

Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC)
Buster Bynum Education Scholarship Application
(Application must be typed)

SECTION I

APPLICANT PERSONAL INFORMATION

The parent/guardian must apply on behalf of his or her child.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(Must have been a school transportation employee since January 1, 2022)

Parent/Guardian's Address: _____

City State Zip Code

Parent/Guardian 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 2025: _____

Address of School: _____

City State Zip Code

As parent/guardian of _____,

I certify that the combined family income of both parents/guardians did not exceed \$80,000 for each of the past three years beginning with 2022.

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 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 explain 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: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

CEEB/SAT/ACT Score: _____ GPA: _____

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 you have participated in, including honors and awards.

List the athletics in which you have participated.

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

Please describe in a **typewritten 500 word or less essay** why you have applied for this scholarship and how you would use the scholarship. Applicants should proofread their essays for grammar, spelling and syntax.

REFERENCES/CERTIFICATIONS

1. Please provide a letter from the parent/guardian's employer verifying employment in public school transportation since January 1, 2022, 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 2025.
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, 2022
- ☐ 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 2025
- ☐ 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 MAY 1, 2025.

Date of Application _____

Signature of School Official _____

Title of School Official _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

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

This section will be used by the local scholarship selection committee to certify the selected local applicant to the state selection committee.

LOCAL APPLICANT CERTIFICATION
TO STATE SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

(Local Scholarship Selection Committee Chairperson)

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

(Local Director of Transportation)

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____

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

Florida Department of Education
School Transportation Management Section
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 834
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-400