March 9, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
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 sixty-five 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 fourteen 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 2015-2016 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 $75,000 for each of the past five tax years and a parent/guardian of the student must have been actively employed in public school transportation for the past five years. A student qualifies by graduating from a public high school and then attending a postsecondary educational institution in 2015. The $2,500 scholarship can be used for any part of the student’s 2015-2016 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.

Applications are due no later than April 30, 2015, and the awards will be announced prior to May 31, 2015. Thank you for your prompt attention to this information.

TRB/KS/JL

Enclosures

cc: City and County Transportation Supervisors
   Mr. Andy Craig
   Mr. Dennis Coe
   Mr. Kevin Snowden

FY15-3022
The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC), comprised of fourteen member states including Alabama has announced the 2015 Buster Bynum Education Scholarship. Named in honor of R. A. “Duster” 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.

**SESPTC Award Guidelines**

1. The parent/guardian listed on application had a Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than $75,000 for each of the “Past Three Tax Years.” (For the purpose of this scholarship award, the “Past Three Tax Years” is defined as the 2012, 2013 and 2014 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, 2012.)

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 2015.

**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, 2012, and documenting financial need; (Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than $75,000 for each of the “Past Three 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 post-secondary educational institution in the fall of 2015.

3. A letter of support from a teacher or adult family acquaintance of the student stating why the award should be made to this student.
Award Process

The scholarship award will be made to the post-secondary school the student attends prior to August 1, 2015. The scholarship cannot be awarded to any family member serving on the selection committee.

2015 APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Section I Applicant Personal Information

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 three years. (Since January 1, 2012.)

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 typed 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. 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 type-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. 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 Scholarship Selection Committee no later than April 30, 2015. Only one application from each school system or district will be judged at state level. Applications shall not be submitted to the state by student applicants.

4. The Alabama Scholarship Selection Committee will select the state’s final applicants.

5. Recipients will be notified no later than May 31, 2015.
Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference
Buster Bynum Education Scholarship
Application
(Application must be typed)

SECTION I  APPLICANT PERSONAL INFORMATION

The parent/guardian on behalf of his or her child must submit the application.

Parent/Guardian Name: ____________________________________________________________

(Must have been a school transportation employee since January 1, 2012.)

Parent/Guardian’s Address: _______________________________________________________

Street  
City  
State  
Zip

Parent/Guardian’s Phone Number: (___) ___-_______

Name of Student: __________________________________________________________________

Name of School from which the student will graduate in 2014: ___________________________

Address of School: __________________________________________________________________

Street  
City  
State  
Zip

Name of the Organization Employing the Parent/Guardian: _____________________________

Employer Organization’s Contact Person: ____________________________________________

Employer’s Address: __________________________________________________________________

Street  
City  
State  
Zip

Employer Contact Person’s Phone Number: (___) ___-_______

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

School now attending: _____________________________________________________________

Class Rank: __________________________ In Class of: __________________________

CEEB/SAT/ACT Test __________________________ GPA: __________________________

Score

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

a. _________________________________________________________________________
b. _________________________________________________________________________
c. _________________________________________________________________________

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

a. _________________________________________________________________________
b. _________________________________________________________________________
c. _________________________________________________________________________
SECTION III  ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

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

2. List athletics in which you have participated.

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

4. Why do you desire to continue your education?

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

SECTION IV  WORK EXPERIENCE

1. List any part-time or full-time work experience(s).
2. List any special interests 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 post marked no later than April 30, 2015.

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 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:

Kevin Snowden, Program Coordinator  
Pupil Transportation  
Alabama Department of Education  
P. O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL  36130  
334-242-9730