March 7, 2016

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 66 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 14 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 2016-2017 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 high school and then attending a postsecondary educational institution in 2016. The $2,500 scholarship can be used for any part of the student’s 2016-2017 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 29, 2016, and the awards will be announced prior to May 31, 2016. Thank you for your prompt attention to this information.

TRB/JS/L

Enclosures

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

FY16-3017
SOUTHEASTERN STATES PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

2016

BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC), comprised of fourteen member states including will announce the 2016 Buster Bynum Education Scholarship at the SESPTC in West Virginia in addition to each local state announcing the winners. Named in honor of R. A. “Buster” 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.

Qualifications

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 2013, 2014 and 2015 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, aids, 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, 2013.)

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.

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

Submission of Application and Timeline (Dates need to be added for your state)

1. ____________ (Date) – Applications are due to the local school system transportation office in your county.

2. ____________ (Date) – Entry mailed to state (postmarked by ____________, 2016.) 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.

3. ____________ (Date) – The state SESPTC Scholarship Selection Committee will select the state’s winner.
Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC)  
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, 2013.)

Parent/Guardian’s Address: _________________________________________________________

Street  City  State  Zip

Parent/Guardian’s 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 2016: _________________________

Address of School: _______________________________________________________________

Street  City  State  Zip

I certify, as parent/guardian of ____________________________________________ that the combined family income of both parents/guardians did not exceed $75,000 for each of the past 3 years beginning with 2013.

__________________________________________  ________________________

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 activities 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 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.

SECTION II  SCHOLARSHIP: EDUCATIONAL DATA (PLEASE ENCLOSE TRANSCRIPT)

School now attending: ______________________

Class Rank: ______________________

In class of: ______________________ (Number)

CEEB/SAT/ACT Test: ______________________

GPA: ______________________ (Score)

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.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

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SECTION III: LEADERSHIP/INVOLVEMENT/LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

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


List athletics in which you have participated in.


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

Using the space provided below, please describe why you have applied for the scholarship and how you would use the scholarship. Essay must be typed in 500 words or less. Applicants should proofread their essays for grammar, spelling and syntax.
SECTION V: REFERENCES/CERTIFICATIONS

1. Please provide a letter from the parent/guardian's employer verifying employment in public school transportation since January 1, 2013, and documenting financial need (Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than $75,000 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 2016.

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, 2013

____ 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 2016

____ 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 _________________.

Date of Application ___________________ Signature of Applicant ___________________

Signature of School Official _______________ Signature of Parent/Guardian _________________

Title of School Official _______________
**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