

February 8, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District and County Superintendents  
Transportation Supervisors of Public School Districts

**FROM:** Rebecca Rocha  
Program Administrator, School Bus Transportation  
Texas Department of Public Safety

**SUBJECT:** Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference Student Scholarships

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC) is a Virginia non-profit corporation created over sixty-three 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. Over the last few years, with the support of industry vendors, the SESPTC has accumulated funds which the SESPTC Board of Directors has decided to disburse in the form of student education scholarships. This year the SESPTC Board has approved the award of two \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students 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 2012-2013 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. 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 2012. The \$1,000 scholarship can be used for any part of the student's 2012-2013 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 State Department of Education.

Applications are due no later than **June 1, 2012** and the awards will be announced prior to July 7, 2012.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this information.

Enclosures

cc: Gary Marek, Texas Education Agency  
File

**2012 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 June 1, 2012**

**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 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 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, 2007.)
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 2012.

**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, 2007, 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 2012.
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 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 or administrative assistant
- A high school counselor, SDE personnel, school principal, etc.
- 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 winners based on the above qualifications and any additional factors the committee deems appropriate.

**Award Process**

Prior to August 1, 2012, 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 2012**

**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, 2007)
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 June 1, 2012***. 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 **July 7, 2012**.
6. Official presentation of the scholarships will take place at the annual Pupil Transportation Summer Conference held in **July 2012**. Applicants do not have to be present to receive the scholarship award.

**Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC)  
Buster Bynum 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, 2007.)

Parent/Guardian's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip Code

Parent/Guardian's Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School from Which the Student Will Graduate in 2012: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip Code

Name of the Organization Employing the Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Organization's Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip Code

Employer Contact Person's Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION II EDUCATIONAL DATA** (USE N/A IF FIELD IS NOT APPLICABLE)

**1. School now attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_ **In class of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Number

**CEEBSAT/ACT Test** \_\_\_\_\_ **GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Score

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

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

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

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_



4. Why do you desire to continue your education?

---

---

---

**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 June 1, 2012.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 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:*

**Rebecca Rocha, Program Administrator  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
School Bus Transportation  
Box 4087  
Austin, TX 78773-0525  
512-424-7396**