

# **SOUTHEASTERN STATES PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE**

**2026**

## **BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC) comprised of fourteen member states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia) will grant a **\$2,000 Buster Bynum Education Scholarship in 2026**. 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 **\$2,000** education scholarship is made available to one deserving public-school student in each of the fourteen-member southeastern states.

### 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 the purpose of this scholarship award, the “Past Three Tax Years” is defined as the 2023, 2024 and 2025 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, 2023.)

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 2026.

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

## **Submission of Application and Timeline**

**April 15, 2026:** School system winning entry must be mailed to the state. 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.

**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, 2023)

Parent/Guardian's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_  
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 2026: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of School: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_                      State \_\_\_\_\_                      Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I certify, as parent/guardian of: \_\_\_\_\_  
that the combined family income of both parents/guardians did not exceed \$80,000 for  
each of the past 3 years beginning with 2023.

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 **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 in which you have participated, including honors and awards.

List 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, 2023, 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 2026.
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, 2023
- 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 2026
- 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 School Official \_\_\_\_\_

Title of School Official \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

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**

(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:**

**Chad Carpenter, Administrator II**  
**Pupil Transportation**  
**Alabama State Department of Education**  
**P.O. Box 302101**  
**Montgomery, AL 36130**  
**334-694-4545**