



**SOUTHEASTERN STATES PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE**

**2017**

**BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC), comprised of fourteen member states including **VIRGINIA**, has announced the **2017 Buster Bynum Education Scholarship**. 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.

**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 2014, 2015 and 2016 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, 2014.)
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 fall 2017.

**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, 2014**, 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 2017.
3. 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.

## Award Process

The scholarship award will be made to the post-secondary school the student attends prior to **August 1, 2017**. The scholarship cannot be awarded to any family member serving on the selection committee.

### 2017 APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

#### Section I      Applicant Personal Information

1. 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 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, 2017. 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 applicant.**
4. The Virginia Association of Pupil Transportation (VAPT) Scholarship Selection Committee will select the state's final applicant.
5. Recipients will be notified no later than **May 26, 2017**.





**SECTION IV   WORK EXPERIENCE**

1. List any part-time or full-time work experience(s).

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2. List any special interests or hobbies.

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**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. Application must be post marked no later than April 30, 2017.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of High School Principal

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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:

**Linwood Horne, Scholarship Chairperson**  
**Virginia Association of Pupil Transportation**  
**C/o Hanover County Public Schools**  
**11375 North Lakeridge Parkway**  
**Ashland, VA 23005-8043**