



## **2025 SONNY MERRYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) is pleased to announce the availability of the 2025 Sonny Merryman Memorial Scholarship.

Named in memory of transportation giant Floyd W. (Sonny) Merryman, Jr., the scholarship is awarded to a deserving student in the Commonwealth to cover education expenses at a post-secondary educational institution in support of a student's 2025-26 school year tuition, books, or fees.

Mr. Merryman was founder of Sonny Merryman, Inc. – a widely respected and prominent Virginia bus dealership serving the transportation industry. A staunch champion of the virtues and rewards of education, Mr. Merryman provided hundreds of young Virginians with scholarship assistance during his lifetime.

**The amount of the scholarship is \$2,500.00.**

To be eligible for the Sonny Merryman Memorial Scholarship, a student must be a Virginia public school senior who has a parent or grandparent either currently employed or formerly employed in the public school pupil transportation field in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A fact sheet is enclosed which provides additional information along with other guidelines and eligibility requirements.

All completed applications must **FIRST BE SUBMITTED** to the applicant's local school division. Contact the person in charge of pupil transportation within the local school division for additional local information which would include local deadlines for application submission. A local finalist shall be selected at the local level. **The local finalist's application shall be submitted to the VAPT Scholarship Committee no later than April 1, 2025.** Finalist's application must contain the signature of local committee selection chairperson. Only one application from each school division will be judged at the state level.

## FACT SHEET

### Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation

#### SONNY MERRYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

1. The recipient of the scholarship will be a Virginia public school senior who has a parent or grandparent either currently employed or formerly employed in a public school pupil transportation field in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
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 minimum.
  - **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, if named the recipient, how the scholarship would be used.

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND PLANS FOR AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. In the second semester of their senior year, students who meet the following 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.
2. Each applicant shall be required to submit a **typewritten** essay (not more than 500 words) which explains why the student has applied and how the student would use the scholarship if named the recipient. The essay must be submitted as an attachment to the application at the time application is submitted. Applicants are encouraged to proofread their essays for spelling, grammar, and syntax.

3. When completed all applications **MUST** be submitted to the local school division Scholarship Selection Committee (contact the person in charge of pupil transportation within the local school division for additional local information to include the local deadline for application submission).
4. The local school division Scholarship Selection Committee shall select from all local applicants a finalist whose application must be submitted to the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) Selection Committee no later than April 1, 2025.

**Heather Handschin, Supervisor of Operations**  
**Prince William County Public Schools**  
**Transportation Department**  
12153 Hooe Road  
Bristow, VA 20136

5. The VAPT Selection Committee will be responsible for selecting the final scholarship recipient.
6. The scholarship recipient will be notified by the VAPT Selection Committee no later than May 15, 2025.

**If you have questions concerning the application, please contact**

**Heather Handschin      [handschB@pwcs.edu](mailto:handschB@pwcs.edu)**

# VAPT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## 2025 SONNY MERRYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Application must be typed – use N/A if not applicable

### Section I (Personal)

1. Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle
2. Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip
3. Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_
4. Telephone Number (including Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Employed/Formerly Employed in Public School Transportation by:

School Division \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**(If answered No. 5, go to Section II)**

6. If Grandparent employed/formerly employed in Public School Transportation:  
Name of Grandparent \_\_\_\_\_  
School Division \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Section II (Educational Data)

1. School now attending \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
School division where school is located \_\_\_\_\_  
Class Rank \_\_\_\_\_ in class of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)  
CEEB/SAT Test Score \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

2. University/College or Vocational School to which you seek admission:

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3. State your present status regarding acceptance to institutions listed in Section II, No. 2 above:

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**Section III (Activities/Awards)** (If additional space is required, please attach a separate sheet.)

1. List all co-curricular activities in which you have participated to include honors and awards:

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2. List athletics in which you have participated:

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3. List community services or projects in which you have participated.

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4. Why do you desire to continue your education?

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**Section IV (Work Experience)**

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

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2. List any special interest or hobbies:

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**Section V (Essay)**

**You must submit the essay as an attachment to your application.**

Please describe in a typed 500 word or less essay why you have applied for this scholarship and how you would use the scholarship if named a recipient.

Please check the application for completeness before signing below.

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of Parent/Grandparent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION BY **APRIL 1, 2025** TO:

**Heather Handschin, Supervisor of Operations  
Prince William County Public Schools  
Transportation Department  
12153 Hooe Road  
Bristow, VA 20136**