



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO: LEA Transportation Directors

FROM: Kevin Harrison, Section Chief
Transportations Services

DATE: January 24, 2023

2023 Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference - Student Scholarship

The SESPTC is a non-profit corporation created over seventy 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. With the support of the conference attendees and industry vendors, the SESPTC accumulated funds which the SESPTC Board of Directors decided to disburse in the form of student education scholarships. This year the SESPTC Board has approved the award of one \$2,000 scholarship to a deserving student in each of the fourteen member 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 2023-2024 school year expenses.

To qualify, a parent/guardian family must have a gross taxable income less than \$80,000 for each of the past three tax years. A parent/guardian of the student must have been actively employed in public school transportation for the past three years. A student qualifies by graduating from a public high school and then attending a postsecondary educational institution in fall of 2023. The \$2,000 scholarship can be used for any part of the student's 2023-2024 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 transportation positions either employed by a school district, their contractors, a state school, or the State Department of Education.

Applications are due to the local director of transportation no later than April 14, 2023 and the local finalist packet must be submitted by the local committee to the Department of Public Instruction Transportation Services no later than May 1, 2023 (postmark or email). Each LEA may submit only one application packet.

KH/jd

Enclosures

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