

Texas Association for Pupil Transportation Adult and Student Scholarship Program
Information, Application Requirements and Eligibility
Entry Deadline – April 1, 11:59 PM

The Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT), a non-profit professional organization, supports student achievement through its purpose, mission, and goals. In this effort, TAPT is proud to offer the following scholarship opportunities for Texas students.

Students and Adults who desire to be selected for one of the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT) Scholarships listed must meet the requirements as outlined below:

- Students must be graduating high school seniors in the year of application. (May have participated in college prep courses)
- **REVIEW** the requirements for **each individual scholarship** you are applying for to make sure that you meet the application requirements as outlined **for each scholarship (requirements vary)**
- Submit completed application before the designated deadline: **April 1, 11:59 PM.**
- Include ALL required documentation, letters, and personal essays before the deadline. Failure to submit the required documents will result in disqualification.
- Provide current contact information for both student and parent - including mailing address for the scholarship check, current email address and cell phone numbers. This is important for further info and notifications.
- Provide the name of the TAPT member if not yourself.
- Scholarship recipients will be decided at the Spring meeting of the TAPT Executive Committee. The selection committee is made up of members of the TAPT Executive Board.
- Notifications will be made to the selected recipient or parent/grandparent by the TAPT Executive Director. For more information, please email Marisa@tapt.com.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Student Scholarship Applicants -

- Student applicants must be the child or grandchild of a current TAPT Member. Stepchildren of legally married TAPT members are also eligible to apply.
- Read the requirements **for each scholarship** to make sure you qualify.
- Provide contact information for student, parent, and TAPT Member.
- Complete online application at www.TAPT.com making sure to answer all required fields by April 1.
- Prepare and upload a **personal essay** outlining the following:
 - Educational and career goals
 - Community service or other volunteer activities
 - Extra-curricular or student activities
 - Leadership roles, honors, or awards
 - Impact of this grant on your educational plan
- Upload **letters of support** from **all** of the following:
 - High School Principal addressing the applicant's character and attendance.
 - High School Counselor addressing the applicant's character and attainability of educational goals.
 - Current high school teacher addressing the applicant's work ethic and reliability.
 - Parent or grandparent
- **Proof of acceptance** into a 2-year or 4-year program.

If you have any issues uploading information, please contact Keith@tapt.com.

Adult Scholarship Applicants -

- **Must have been a member of TAPT for one full year at the time of the application and be a current member of TAPT.**
- **REVIEW** the requirements for ***each scholarship*** to make sure you qualify.
- Complete online application at www.TAPT.com by April 1, 11:59 pm.
- Prepare and upload a personal essay outlining the following:
 - Professional goals
 - Personal educational goals
 - Community Service or other volunteer activities
 - Leadership roles, honors, or awards
 - Impact of this grant on your career goals
- Upload a letter of support/reference from the Transportation Director addressing the applicant's character and eligibility for the chosen scholarship.
- For the TAPT Brian Weisinger Continuing Ed scholarship, the Director must also indicate support for the applicant to attend the TAPT Conference and Trade Show and PDC Classes in the same year of receipt of the scholarship. Reimbursement will depend on receipts submitted.
- Please do not pay for conference or class fees until you know if you have been selected. TAPT will cover those costs.
- To ensure that you have a spot in 2 PDC courses please register for two classes that will go toward your Official level of course requirements.
- If not chosen, you can email Marisa@tapt.com and request that the registration be cancelled if necessary.

For any issues with the application process, email Keith@tapt.com.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

TAPT Scholarship in Honor and Memory of LB and Brandon Billingsley

Established 1988

The Billingsley Memorial Scholarship is awarded by the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT). The scholarship is to honor Mr. L. B. Billingsley, one of the founding supporters and establishers of TAPT and his grandson Brandon Billingsley, who followed in his grandfather's footsteps as a staunch supporter of this organization but left us too soon.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

A one-time grant of \$1000.00 for a two- or four-year program/scholarship resulting in a vocational or academic degree.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Family member (son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter) of a current Member of TAPT.
- Graduating senior of an accredited Texas public high school.
- Eligible for admission in selected educational institution.
- Maintain acceptable attendance and scholastic performance each semester for the term of the scholarship.
- You must submit all contact information as required.
- Must meet all previously stipulated requirements above.

Richard Davis TAPT Vocational/Technical Student Scholarship

Established 1994

The Texas Association for Pupil Transportation Vocational/Technical (Trade School) Scholarship is sponsored and administered by the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation in conjunction with Chalk's Bus Parts. This scholarship is in honor and memory of Richard Davis. Mr. Davis was a long-time supporter of TAPT and of its scholarship program. This scholarship was important to him and reflects Mr. Davis's commitment to the youth of Texas and support for the TAPT membership.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

A one-time \$1,000 scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Family member (son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter) of any employee of the transportation department of any Texas public school district.
- Graduating senior from a Texas accredited school.
- Be eligible for and have applied for admission in a recognized educational, vocational/technical or trade school.
- Maintain acceptable attendance and scholastic performance each semester for the term of the Scholarship.
- You must submit all required contact information and meet all previously stipulated requirements above.

Diane Sherwood TAPT Student Scholarship

Established June 2001

The Diane Sherwood Scholarship is awarded by the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation in honor of Diane Sherwood, who was the first Executive Secretary of the Association for many years. The Scholarship was established to honor a woman who has often been called the 'First Lady of Transportation' and who was the first woman to become a Director of Transportation for a school district transportation department.

Her leadership and guidance set the example for women in pupil transportation. The rapid growth and success of TAPT in its first 29 years can largely be attributed to Mrs. Sherwood.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

A one-time grant of \$1,000 for either an approved two-year or four-year program resulting in a vocational or academic degree.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Family member (son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter) of a current member of the TAPT.
- A graduating senior of an accredited Texas public high school
- Eligible for admission to selected educational institution
- You must submit contact information as required.
- Must meet all previously stipulated requirements above.

Pat Raney Memorial Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

Established 2003

The Pat Raney Memorial Scholarship is awarded by the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation in honor of Pat Raney. Mrs. Raney served on the Board of the TAPT from 1983 – 1988. She was the first female to be elected as president of the association.

Pat Raney began her career in pupil transportation in 1970 as a special needs driver for Dallas County Schools. In a career that spanned three decades, she rose to the position of director of one of the largest pupil transportation operations in Texas. Her energetic and positive attitude made her a natural leader and she never tired of serving others. Mrs. Raney also served as an Area Director for the National Association for Pupil Transportation for one three-year term.

The Pat Raney Memorial Scholarship was established at the request of and through the initial donation of the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). The scholarship has continued through the generosity of faithful friends of TAPT.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

A one-time scholarship of \$1,000 for either an approved two-year or four-year program resulting in a vocational or academic degree for a student with disabilities in the state of Texas.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a graduating senior of an accredited Texas public high school.

- Student must submit a short essay describing how this grant will enable them to continue their studies even though hearing, visually or physically disabled or requiring a special need.
- Must be eligible for admission to the selected educational institution.
- You must submit ALL contact information as required.
- Must meet all previously stipulated requirements above.

Jolene Hawkins TAPT Student Scholarship

Established June 2006

The Texas Association for Pupil Transportation Scholarship in honor of Jolene Hawkins is sponsored and awarded by the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT). The TAPT Scholarship was created by the Executive Committee under the direction of President Aaron Hobbs, to continue the education of our most valuable assets-our children. In 2011, it was renamed to honor retiring executive secretary, Jolene Hawkins, for her years of dedicated service to TAPT and its members.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

A one-time grant of \$1000.00 for a two- or four-year program/scholarship resulting in a vocational or academic degree.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Family member of a current member of TAPT. (Son, Daughter, Grandson, or Granddaughter)
- Graduating senior of an accredited Texas public high school.
- Eligible for admission in selected educational institution.
- You must submit all required contact information.
- Must meet all previously stipulated requirements above.

Jim Norman Memorial Scholarship

Established 2022

This TAPT Scholarship in honor of Past President Jim Norman is sponsored by KLC24/7 and awarded by the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT). Mr. Norman was very loved and respected by his peers and community, a passionate advocate for education, and was a long-time member of the TAPT Professional Development Committee.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

A one-time grant of \$1000.00 for a two- or four-year program/scholarship resulting in a vocational or academic degree.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Family member of a current member of TAPT. (Son, Daughter, Grandson, or Granddaughter)
- Graduating senior of an accredited Texas public high school.
- Eligible for admission in selected educational institution.
- Must submit all required contact information.
- Must meet all previously stipulated requirements above.

Seon/SafeFleet Student Scholarship in Memory of Caleb Williams

Established December 2023

This TAPT Scholarship is in memory of Caleb Williams and is sponsored by Seon/Safe Fleet. Caleb was loved and respected by his peers and community; was passionate about transportation for children with disabilities; loved teaching others as a professional development instructor; was a great friend and father and was a 20-year employee of College Station ISD.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

A one-time grant of \$1000.00 for a two- or four-year program/scholarship resulting in a vocational or academic degree.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Family member of a current member of TAPT. (Son, Daughter, Grandson, or Granddaughter)
- Graduating senior of an accredited Texas public high school.
- Eligible for admission in selected educational institution.
- Must submit all required contact information.
- Must meet all previously stipulated requirements above.

ADULT SCHOLARSHIPS

Applicants -

- **Must have been a TAPT Member for one full year before applying** and be a current member of TAPT
- Complete online application at www.TAPT.com
- Prepare and upload a personal essay outlining the following:
 - Professional goals
 - Personal educational goals
 - Community Service or other volunteer activities
 - Leadership roles, honors, or awards
 - Impact of this grant on your career goals
- Upload a letter of support/reference from the Transportation Director addressing the applicant's character and eligibility for the chosen scholarship.
- For the TAPT continuing ed scholarship the Director must also indicate support for the applicant to attend the TAPT Conference and Trade Show in the year of application.
- Scholarships are non-transferable.

Fred Oppermann Memorial Scholarship

Established 2005

The Fred Oppermann Memorial Scholarship is administered and awarded by the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT) in honor of Fred Oppermann. Mr. Oppermann was one of the founding fathers of the Certification Program, Co-chaired the Certification Committee and served TAPT as President for two terms.

Fred Oppermann diligently devoted his entire career to meeting the needs of not only the children of his community but of all children in the state of Texas. Fred was a teacher for over 20 years, an Assistant Superintendent for 14 years and a Justice of the Peace for 6 years. One of his greatest causes was establishing and making possible various scholarship programs.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

This scholarship provides a one-time grant covering the registration fee of the required courses as outlined in the TAPT PDC Handbook for the Official level of Professional Certification; the registration fee for the Official Exit Exam; and application fee for the Official level of Professional Certification through TAPT culminating in the Certified Pupil Transportation Official Certification and numbered certificate. Applicants for this scholarship must have been a member for at least one year before applying and should review the qualifications for this top leadership level of professional certification. Grant is good for 36 months from the date of receipt and will only cover those classes as required for the certification.

ELIGIBILITY:

- **One full year experience in school district Transportation Department and TAPT Membership prior to applying for this scholarship.**
- Current Member of the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation in good standing. (Must maintain membership throughout the program)
- Current employee of a school district Transportation Department
- High school graduate or equivalent (GED)

- Scholarship is good for **36 months** from the June received or up to Exit Exam and application fee if **before 36 months**.
- Grant only covers REQUIRED COURSES as outlined in the PDC Handbook (online under the Education TAB) to receive the Official level of Professional Certification. **(Does not cover Electives)**
- Recipients should register for classes needed when event registration opens and then notify the Executive Director so that the Scholarship may be noted as payment for the class. ***Classes paid for at the time of registration will not be refunded. If the scholarship attendee is a no show, this class will still be considered a part of the grant and will not be paid for the next time the recipient registers for the same class.***
- Please review PDC Handbook for updated requirements and Exit Exam vetting.

TAPT Adult Higher Education Scholarship in Honor of Ray Westmoreland

Established 2006

The Texas Association for Pupil Transportation Adult Higher Education Scholarship is sponsored and administered by the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT). This Scholarship was created by the Executive Committee under the direction of President Aaron Hobbs to enable the recipient to further their educational opportunities. In 2011, it was renamed to honor Ray Westmoreland, a founding member, past president, and longtime friend of TAPT.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

A one-time grant of \$1000.00 for either an approved two-year or four-year program resulting in a vocational or academic degree.

ELIGIBILITY:

- **Must have been a member for at least one year prior to application for the scholarship and current TAPT Member.**
- Currently employed in the business of transporting students for a school district for a minimum of one year prior to application for the scholarship.
- High school graduate or equivalent (GED)
- Proof of eligibility and admission in selected educational institution
- Maintain acceptable attendance and scholastic performance each semester for the term of the scholarship.

TAPT Brian Weisinger Continuing Ed Adult Scholarship

Established September 2023.

This adult scholarship was established in appreciation for and in honor of Brian Weisinger, one of TAPT's long-time members and Honorees. Brian has shown his support for over 45 years with "behind-the-scenes" dedication and commitment to TAPT, its members, programs, and successes; someone who grew in their career straight out of high school and community college to retiring as a long-respected Director of Transportation; and someone who has always encouraged those seeking to grow.

SCHOLARSHIP PROVISION:

This one-time scholarship must be used for the conference and 2 PDC Classes in the year it is awarded. This scholarship affords the TAPT member recipient the opportunity to attend the state conference and trade show

and attend 2 full day PDC classes. The recipient will have lodging covered up to the established room block rate for 5 nights, parking if applicable, travel up to \$300.

- Registration fee to attend the TAPT Conference held in the same year as applied for.
- Does not include membership.
- Up to two (2) PDC Courses or equivalent (2 half-day courses may be taken in the place of one of the courses);
- Hotel rooming for up to five (5) nights (generally Thursday through Monday night depending on agenda) up to the room block rate as established by TAPT.
- Up to \$150.00 meal allowance for meals not covered by the conference. \$13 for breakfast, 14 for lunch and \$23 for dinner with receipts, no alcohol and if not provided by event or hotel.(Must provide Expense Voucher and receipts at end of conference.)
- Up to \$300.00 Mileage/Flight reimbursement with receipts – whichever is less unless district provides.

ELIGIBILITY:

- **Must have been a TAPT Member for at least one year before application.**
- Current Member in good standing of the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (either Active or Associate)
- Currently employed by a Texas school district.
- Provide a letter from the Director of Transportation on District letterhead confirming the above requirements and support for taking off work to attend the conference.
- Provide an essay personally written by the applicant (100 words minimum) describing why he/she should be selected for this scholarship and how this will assist the applicant to reach their career goals.
- Provide required supporting documentation.
- Attendance of the entire TAPT conference in the same year of award and PDC courses.
- Submit Expense Voucher and receipts as required to the TAPT Executive Director at the close of the conference.

Revised 10/2024