



Safety Alert

Food & Drink Consumption is Prohibited on the School Bus

Both Trinity and National Express company policy's prohibits allowing passengers to consume food or drink (other than water) on the bus. The consumption of food, candies, snacks, chewing gum and drinks by student passengers presents a very real choking hazard that can result loss of the ability to breathe very quickly.

Never celebrate or reward a student(s) with candy, snacks or any food item.

Aside from choking concerns, there are health concerns as well, and there is no way for our staff to know what each student's medical condition and/or food allergies may be. Parents may also have preferences on what foods they wish their children to have. Also, providing food to only certain students as a reward can cause favoritism and animosity from other students.

All of this leads to the best practice of not providing any food, candy or snacks to students at any time.

Here are steps you can take to help ensure our students are compliant with this rule:

Step #1 – Observe your students as they board, whether at a stop or at the school. Do not permit the student to go to their seat with food or snacks in their mouth. Remind them that they are not permitted to eat or drink while boarding or riding the bus, and can take their food home to eat there.

Step #2 – If you observe students eating or sharing food items at any other time, remind them of the rule and how dangerous it is to consume food or drink while on the bus.

Step #3 – If a chaperone or school official asks for the students to eat on the bus while on a field trip, please remind them of this policy and work with them on creating a plan for the students to eat while the bus is NOT moving.

What to do if you suspect a choking situation:

Step #4 – If you should suspect that a student is choking, ask immediately if they are OK. If you do not get an answer quickly, find a safe place to pull over and secure the bus, notify dispatch of the situation and how you are going to address it. The most widely recommended tactic to assist a choking victim is the Heimlich maneuver. If you are not familiar with it, contact your GM or Safety Training Supervisor.

Our policy prohibits drivers from eating or drinking while operating a company vehicle.

Remember, when it comes to the Bus rules, YOU are the example!

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