



Monday, August 21, 2017

What an exciting opportunity we have to experience and celebrate a once in a lifetime spectacle like the total solar eclipse! This is the first coast-to-coast solar eclipse since 1918 and the first total eclipse visible only in the USA since the country's founding in 1776.

We are planning now for students to participate in the event by developing activities to maximize the benefit of this rare educational experience. Most of our schools have already purchased special eclipse glasses for students and employees. The glasses are ISO 12312-2 compliant and CE certified. The others are in the process of doing so.

While we are enthused to share this learning opportunity with students and colleagues, the timing of the event will occur in the latter part of the school day with an estimated peak around 2:37 p.m. The sun and moon will be on full display close to our dismissal times. Many options were considered regarding how we might adjust our schedule for this phenomenon, each with pros and cons. After weighing what was in the best interest of students, especially related to safety and education, we decided to extend the school day by 30 minutes so **students can enjoy the peak of the eclipse safely, with adult supervision and then be safely dismissed**. We are excited to celebrate this event together, but we also understand and support our families who would like to enjoy it together.

We are so appreciative of our neighboring school systems especially Bristol Virginia City Schools and Bristol Tennessee City Schools for sharing ideas about the viewing of the eclipse as a school division!