

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
Los Angeles Unified School District
Division of Instruction

TO: All Principals

DATE: August 16, 2017

FROM: Frances Gipson, Ph.D. Chief Academic Officer

Derrick Chau, Ph.D.
Senior Executive Director, P-12 Education

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR VIEWING SOLAR ECLIPSE

The purpose of this correspondence is to share with schools safety information and instructional materials regarding the viewing of August 21st solar eclipse.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon blocks any part of the sun. A solar eclipse will be visible in North America on August 21st, 2017 from 9:05 a.m.-11:45 a.m. This rare and spectacular phenomenon provides students with a great learning opportunity. However, **looking directly at the sun is extremely unsafe and might cause permanent damage to the eyes.** Sunglasses and other darkened tools do not help either. Only NASA approved special glasses are permitted. NASA also provided appropriate procedures to indirectly observe the eclipse. Visit <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/> to access the needed safety information and instructional materials related to the eclipse.

In case your school were able to purchase NASA recommended glasses from this list <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters> you may use *Attachment A* as a *Solar Eclipse Viewing Permission Slip*.

School _____

Solar Eclipse Viewing Permission Slip

On August 21, 2017, _____ School will be in the path of a solar eclipse. From Los Angeles, the eclipse will be partial with 69% of the sun obscured by the moon. This event is being called “The Great American Solar Eclipse,” because it is the first time since 1918 a solar eclipse will be visible on a path across the entire continental United States. The school is planning a viewing opportunity to allow students to experience this spectacular event. The school has purchased eclipse-safe viewing glasses for students, staff, and parents. Because this eclipse will not be total from Los Angeles, it will **not** be safe to view the eclipse without eclipse-safe viewing glasses at any time during the eclipse. Safety is always a top priority. We will take all precautionary measures to make this experience both safe and enjoyable. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, **are not safe** for looking at the sun. Students will not be permitted to look at the sun (even partially eclipsed) through unfiltered cameras, telescopes, binoculars, or other optical devices, with or without glasses. (For more information on viewing the eclipse safely to prevent eye damage, please visit <http://eclipse.semo.edu/safety>.) Because of these safety concerns, a parent or guardian consent and signature on this sheet is required for students to participate in the event using the eclipse glasses. **Students whose parents do not complete this form will not be able to participate.**

Parental Consent

Student Name: _____ Special Health Conditions: _____
 I, parent/guardian of _____, hereby

(check one)

- give consent
 do NOT give consent

...for my/our son/daughter to participate in this school-approved activity to view “The Great American Solar Eclipse” on August 21, 2017 at _____ School using eclipse-safe viewing glasses. My/our son/daughter will abide by school rules as well as guidelines set up by the teacher. I/We have been informed viewing the eclipse involves risk, which could result in injury to the eyes **if eclipse-safe viewing glasses are not worn properly.** I/We hereby release LAUSD and _____ School as well as any and all of its employees and volunteers from any and all liability for any and all harm arising to my/our son/daughter as a result of this school-approved activity.

Parent/Guardian Signature_____
Date_____
Emergency Phone #1_____
Emergency Phone #2