## Guidelines for Viewing the Great American Eclipse

### Introduction

On August 21, 2017, a total eclipse of the Sun will be viewable for the continental United States for the first time in about 100 years. Schools are permitted to participate in this event if the viewing is tied to a specific educational lesson. Teachers who wish to involve their classes in this event must follow the guidelines explained below. DCPS operates to ensure the safety of all students and asks all staff to follow these guidelines to ensure all reasonable precautions are followed accordingly. Students and families may opt out of this event by telling their school leader and/or teacher or submitting the attached opt-out form. If you have questions about this document or this event, please contact dcps.policy@dc.gov or the Office of General Counsel at 202-442-5000.

#### Safety Procedures for Solar Eclipse Viewing

1. DCPS staff must supply solar filter glasses, also known as eclipse glasses, purchased from a vendor with a warranty because of the risks of serious eye injury from not wearing proper eye protection. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. The American Astronomical Society (AAS) has a link for authorized dealers of eclipse glasses and handheld solar viewers verified to be compliant with the international safety standard that is accessible at <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters>.
2. DCPS teachers must conduct a safety session with students on how to properly use the eclipse glasses before the viewing and the procedures for the viewing session, including how classes will line up to view the event and when breaks will be taken.
3. DCPS must notify parents about this activity before the first day of school and provide all families an opportunity to opt-out using the attached form.
4. Staff and students may only view the eclipse with proper safety glasses in a supervised group. Particularly young children in early elementary grades require active adult supervision at all times to make sure that glasses are used appropriately.
5. Staff and students should not look directly at the sun continuously. Rather, individuals should take breaks to give their eyes a rest periodically.
6. Any student who does not follow the procedures must be removed from the event.

#### Instructional Resources for Solar Eclipse Viewing

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| **Resource Type** | **Description** | **Weblink/Additional Info** |
| Lesson Plan | Hands-on, guided-inquiry activity that helps students understand the geometry of lunar and solar eclipses by creating a physical, proportional model. | <https://www.sciencefriday.com/educational-resources/model-eclipses/>  |
| Materials | The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum has a limited supply of solar eclipse viewing glasses that can be shipped to you upon request.  | To request glasses, email your request to: SIObservatory@si.edu. Supply is limited! Note: DCPS students may not participate in the viewing activities without wearing glasses. |
| Podcast | This podcast from Science Friday explains the solar science that happens during a total eclipse. | <https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/the-solar-science-that-happens-during-a-total-eclipse/>  |
| Training & Materials | On August 9th and August 10th, Leslie Garrison, NASA MMS Sr. Outreach Coordinator, will provide solar eclipse mini-workshops for both DCPS and DCPCS **K-8 educators**.  During this **FREE** workshop, attendees will gain an overview of the science behind eclipses and receive resources (**including glasses for your classes**) needed to teach students about this phenomenon.  | See attached flyer for more details.  You must register for this event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nasa-goddard-sfc-total-solar-eclipse-educator-mini-workshops-tickets-36616096731>.  |
| Webinar | On Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 6:30 pm ET, the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) is hosting a free, 90-minute webinar to learn techniques for explaining the eclipse, the science behind it, and ways to observe it.  | <http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/symposia_seminars/NSTA/webseminar70.aspx>  |
| Website | An interactive website that details how you will experience the eclipse based on where you are located.  Simply plug in your zip code and it will tell you how much of the sun will be blocked.  | <https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2017/7/25/16019892/solar-eclipse-2017-interactive-map>  |
| Website | This Smithsonian Air and Space Museum website is a one-stop shop for lessons and information about the eclipse. | <https://airandspace.si.edu/eclipse-2017>  |