



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Anne Pressley
Director, Office of Standards and Learning

DATE: March 29, 2017

RE: Total Solar Eclipse Resource Page

On August 21, 2017, a rare total solar eclipse will sweep the nation from Oregon to South Carolina. Our state will serve as this nation's exit state for this natural phenomenon. The total solar eclipse creates a unique opportunity to activate student learning in STEM and specifically our Earth Science standards in grades K–12. It is crucial that students are given this learning opportunity prior to the conclusion of the 2016–17 school year since many students will not be in school settings on the day of the event. Science teachers and schools around our state can also help communities prepare for the astronomical phenomenon by providing a solid and scientific understanding of the wonderment of the event.

A group of educators from around the state have prepared resources for teachers to utilize in order to provide engaging learning experiences for our South Carolina K–12 students preceding the event. These instructional unit resources, safety considerations, professional development opportunities, and links to other South Carolina external group events are now available on the Office of Standards and Learning Science webpage. You may access these resources by using the following link: <http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/science/professional-learning-opportunities/total-solar-eclipse-resources/>.

If you have any questions about the total solar eclipse as it relates to South Carolina content area standards, please contact Dr. Anne Pressley at apressley@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-8574.