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Dear Parents,

On Monday, August 21, at approximately 2:35 p.m. the metro Atlanta area will experience a 98% solar eclipse. This is an exciting and significant event from both an instructional and a safety perspective.

Schools are busy preparing their lessons for that day, with some opting to conduct controlled, adult-supervised outdoor viewing activities while others may elect to use the indoor technology resources available to them, such as the NASA website or other STEM-related materials, to watch the moon pass over the sun.

Regardless of how your school participates, it is essential that all Fulton County students, parents, and staff understand the safety concerns. We recognize the excitement surrounding this event and have put in place some safety protocols as well as special attendance/check-out procedures and dismissal times for that day.

Consent Form for Outdoor Activities

For schools conducting outdoor experiences, your child will receive a special consent form for you to sign and acknowledge their safety risk with viewing a near-total solar eclipse. Your school will have safeguards in place, which may include eclipse viewing glasses for students, but your consent is still required. Students who do not have a signed consent form on file for this activity will be provided a different indoor instructional activity related to the eclipse.

Student Absence/Early Check-out

All student absences and/or early check-outs on this day will be counted as excused. Parents who wish to pick up their students are requested to do so before 12:30 p.m. so that there is ample time to get safely home or to an eclipse viewing location. From start to finish, the event is expected to last approximately three hours, with the actual eclipse occurring around 2:35 p.m., which is why we have established the 12:30 p.m. check-out time.

Delayed Dismissal for Elementary Schools

Although Atlanta will not experience a total eclipse, the darkest part of the event is scheduled to occur during the dismissal process of elementary school students. As a result, Fulton County Schools is delaying release of elementary school students until 3:05 p.m. For the majority of our elementary schools, this is a 45-minute delay. Middle and high school buses also will experience delays due to the delay in elementary dismissal. Middle and high school walkers, car riders, and drivers will dismiss according to their normal schedules.

Fulton County Schools is excited to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. To help our parents understand its impact, we are including information about the eclipse's scientific significance as well as safety information. You can also visit the school system's website, www.fultonschools.org, for more information about the eclipse. We want you and your family to be well informed and safe as you consider your participation in this event.

Sincerely,
Fulton County Schools