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Superintendent Ybarra urges families, schools to take advantage of stellar STEM teaching moment during eclipse

(BOISE) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra urged Idahoans to take advantage of the stellar STEM teachable moment with the eclipse Monday, Aug. 21.

“Many schools won’t be in session for this once-in-our-lifetime event, so it’s a great time for everyone to focus on connecting kids and adults with the great science, technology, engineering and math lessons around the solar eclipse,” said Superintendent Ybarra. “Also, I also encourage everyone to make sure you and your family have proper eyewear for viewing the eclipse and if you are traveling that you’ve taken the precautions recommended by the state.”

State Department of Education Science Coordinator Scott Smith encouraged parents and others to take some time to prepare and to identify any activities they may want to do before Monday’s eclipse.

“If you don’t have appropriate eyewear, one of the safest ways to watch the eclipse is to create a pinhole viewer out of a cardboard box,” Smith said. “It’s fun and a great conversation about why this simple tool works so well.” Some resources for families and educators include:

- The 2017 Total Solar Eclipse: Everything You Need to Know -- <http://time.com/4750899/total-solar-eclipse/>
- NASA -- <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/activities>
- Great American Eclipse -- <https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/education/>
- College of Southern Idaho Herrett Center for Arts and Sciences -- https://herrett.csi.edu/astronomy/observatory/2017_eclipse_faq.asp
- Idaho Department of Commerce -- <http://commerce.idaho.gov/eclipse/>
- Eclipse weather: <https://www.weather.gov/source/crh/eclipse.html>
- Make a box pinhole projector: <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/box-pinhole-projector.html>
- See How the Solar Eclipse Will Look From Anywhere in the U.S. <http://time.com/4882923/total-solar-eclipse-map-places-view/>
- Resources for parents and educators: <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/educational-materials>