

Memo

Intradistrict

To: Board members, Rick Chandler

From: Gene Moore, superintendent

Through:

Subject: Recommendation to change Aug. 21 to half day for students and May 24 to a full day for students

Date: June 27, 2017

As you probably know, on Aug. 21, South Carolina will be directly in the peak of the solar eclipse between 2:40-2:50 p.m.

That means our buses would be on the road and traveling in dark conditions, possibly causing a distraction for our bus drivers and for other drivers on the road. It also means children on the buses might look directly at the eclipse without the proper eye protection.

We believe dismissing students early Aug. 21 would help prevent these problems.

Making Aug. 21 a half day would mean we also need to change the half day scheduled for May 24 to a full day. The state only allows districts to schedule three half days during a school year.

Clover, Fort Mill, Rock Hill and York school districts will dismiss schools early Aug. 21.

Chester County School District is extending its school day Aug. 21 so that teachers will be with students during the eclipse. Chesterfield County School District will not have school Aug. 21.

For these reasons, we recommend that our schools operate on a half-day schedule for students on Aug. 21.