

Dear parents and guardians,

A solar eclipse will plunge southern and eastern Ontario into darkness for a few minutes on April 8, 2024, creating potential safety issues as students leave school and head home.

In order to prioritize the health and safety of our students, the CEPEO, along with its counterparts at the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE) and the Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien (CSDCEO), **have decided to move the April 26, 2024 pedagogical day to April 8, 2024.**

April 26 will be a regular day.

### **Reasons for the calendar change**

The partial eclipse on April 8, 2024 will run from 2:15pm to 4:45pm. The total eclipse will take place around 3:30pm. This coincides with the time when most students leave school and go home. Viewing the eclipse without proper eye protection presents potential risks of eye injury and permanent damage to eyesight. Some challenges may also be encountered in terms of school transportation, both in terms of bus driver availability and traffic during the eclipse.

Given these circumstances, we believe it is better for kids to be at home with parental/adult oversight.

### **Safety instructions**

The Canadian Association of Optometrists offers some guidelines on how to enjoy the eclipse safely. We invite you to read them with your child [on this web page](#).

We are aware that this change will impact your family daily schedule. We thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Christian-Charle Bouchard  
Director of Education