

Dear Membership,

On April 8, 2024 a total solar eclipse will pass directly through New York state. This will not happen again until May 2079 which means for many of our students this may be their only chance to witness such an event. The perspective gained of one's place in the universe from seeing a solar eclipse in person cannot be replaced by simply watching it take place on a screen.

The New York Earth Science Teachers Association (NYESTA) was founded with the goal of increasing students' education in the Earth Sciences throughout New York State. This is why we are proposing that Monday, April 8, 2024 be set aside as a holiday. In doing so we will be providing our students an opportunity to either join groups set up to watch the eclipse or join with their families if they are making separate plans. Many of us in NYESTA are already planning to set up viewing opportunities through our own schools.

As Easter will fall on March 31st of that year we propose that Spring Break could either be extended to include April 8th or a day can be moved from the break to April 8th.

The map below shows the path of totality passing through Western, Central, and Northern New York. Locations in the southern parts of the state will see a partial eclipse. Setting April 8th as a holiday will allow for travel to locations in the path of totality.



The membership of NYESTA recognizes that New York State is a leader in Earth Science education in the United States. We hope that all students in New York can celebrate the quality education they receive by being able to witness such a phenomenal event in person on April 8, 2024. If your Earth Science faculty would like to join us in planning for the eclipse please encourage them to go to NYESTA.org to learn more about our organization.

Thank you for your consideration.

NYESTA President

Sean Ellison