Dear BCS Employees,

As you know the current COVID-19 global pandemic is drastically impacting our community and our schools. Out of an abundance of caution and concern for our employees and our scholars, we will return to full remote learning for the next two weeks beginning Monday, Dec. 7.

Teachers can work remotely, unless technical difficulties prevent them from doing so. Local school administrative assistants should coordinate their schedules with their principal. Principals will report their weekly schedules to their instructional superintendents. Central Office and other district personnel can work remotely in consultation with their immediate supervisor. Custodial, transportation and child nutrition staff will continue their regular schedules. Following the winter holiday break, we will reassess the impact of the pandemic and decide on our next steps.

While we realize our scholars and teachers have benefited from in-person learning, we feel that our remote model is the best option to address the needs of our scholars at this time. The number of positive COVID-19 cases has increased, and currently Jefferson County is experiencing a positive test rate of 11.4 percent. Public health officials project additional increases in the coming weeks. Our students and faculty are not immune to these spikes. We are seeing an uptick in the number of positive cases throughout the district among our students, faculty and staff.

During these times, it is imperative that we continue engaging our students so that they can achieve their optimum success. Through our remote learning plan, we still provide students with full access to high quality instruction, and we will continue serving hot meals every school day. Scholars will work in virtual classrooms with their teachers Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, employees will have professional development opportunities and teachers will have time to schedule virtual meetings with parents.

This school year has been unlike any year I have witnessed. We have faced some unforeseen challenges, and I am proud of the way all of you have maintained our standard of excellence.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Sullivan

Mark A. Sullivan, Ed.D