

Date:

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

The Maryland State Board of Education requires that each school system provide instruction about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The Howard County Public School System will provide instruction in grades 4-12. In middle schools, curricular topics related to HIV/AIDS are as follows:

Grades 6-8 Subject Areas:

Major content areas:

Health Education - (6 and 8)
Science (Human Biology)

- Definition of AIDS and HIV infection
- Transmission, symptoms, and treatment of HIV infection
- Prevention of infection by stressing abstinence and avoiding the sharing of needles
- Description of how HIV affects the immune system
- Roles and responsibilities of service and community agencies

HIV/AIDS education will stress the importance of good health habits such as abstinence from sexual intercourse and refraining from the use of IV drugs and sharing needles. Education about HIV/AIDS may also be included in special school programs such as the DisAbility Awareness Day and Wellness Days. You as a parent/guardian may request that your child be excluded from HIV/AIDS instruction and other activities that provide information about HIV/AIDS. Please carefully consider your decision before requesting exclusion. HIV/AIDS education is critical in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

If you elect to **request exclusion**, simply sign the statement below and return it to your child's school immediately.

Should you have questions, please contact your child's teacher.

**EXCLUSION FROM HIV/AIDS INSTRUCTION
(Return only if you DO NOT want your child to receive HIV/AIDS instruction)**

I DO NOT want to have my child participate in HIV/AIDS prevention instruction.

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____