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 (7 optional topic)	• 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

Education about HIV/AIDS may also be included in special school programs such as the DisAbility Awareness Day and Wellness Days. HIV/AIDS Prevention 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. You as a parent/guardian may request that your child be excluded from the instruction. Please carefully consider your decision before requesting exclusion. HIV/AIDS education is critical in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Classroom teachers have received training on how to provide accurate and age appropriate information on HIV/AIDS.

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

Materials on HIV/AIDS that can be used in educating your child at home are available by contacting the Office of Health, Physical Education, and Dance at (410) 313-7015. The materials will be mailed to your home.

Should you have questions, please contact your child's teacher or the Office of Health Physical Education, and Dance.

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

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

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____   Date _____