HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Lead poisoning is a significant environmental health threat to young children. Exposure to lead can cause developmental delays, learning disabilities, or behavioral disturbances.

In 2000, the legislature enacted a law which targets areas in the State that are considered atrisk for childhood lead poisoning. All students entering our schools in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First grade must show evidence of blood lead testing by providing the dates the tests were done. Pre-Kindergarten means any public school program prior to Kindergarten in which your student may be enrolled. Parents/guardians will be receiving a blood testing certificate/form prior to the opening of school. To comply with the law, this is what parents/guardians must do:

• Provide the test dates of any blood lead tests if your student currently lives or has lived in any of the zip codes identified on the form/certificate, which will be provided to you; or,

• Certify that your student does not live, and has never lived, in the zip codes identified on the form/certificate, by signing the blood lead testing exemption section on the certificate.

If your student has never had a blood lead test and needs one, please see your school nurse who will be able to assist you in obtaining the information regarding testing. If you have any questions, please contact your school nurse at ______ or the Harford County Health Department at 410-273-5626.

Please remember that every student in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade must have a blood lead testing certificate/form in their school health file at the beginning of the school year.

Thank you for your cooperation in complying with this State requirement.

Sincerely, Mary Nasuta, RN, MS, NCSN Supervisor of Health Services