

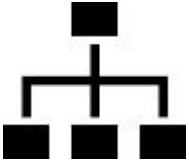












Spot signs that student is experiencing homelessness

Homelessness is a traumatic experience, and students in this situation may try to hide or downplay their current circumstances even as their performance worsens. School staff should be familiar with the following warning signs of homelessness, as well as protocols for identifying those who may qualify for services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

	Attendance at many different schools; parent or student seems confused when asked for the school last attended.
	Parent offers reasons for poor appearance or hygiene.
	Poor organizational skills and gaps in skill development.
	Missing or incomplete records for enrollment, such as birth certificate, immunization records, or Social Security number.
	Statements such as, "We've been having a bad time lately," or, "We move a lot and are staying with friends until we find a place."
	Student mentions she is staying with grandparents, other relatives, friends, or in a motel or campground.

	<p>Parents are difficult to contact.</p>
	<p>Student exhibits chronic hunger and tiredness.</p>
	<p>Student is unable to pay school fees, complete special projects, or purchase basic school supplies.</p>
	<p>Student's grooming and personal hygiene or clothing are attracting the attention of classmates and teachers.</p>
	<p>There are unmet dental or medical needs.</p>
	<p>Student has numerous absences and excessive tardiness.</p>
	<p>There are social and behavioral concerns, including extreme shyness, difficulty socializing, clinginess, anxiety late in the school day, aggression, and low self-esteem.</p>