

Warning Signs of Homelessness

<i>Lack of Continuity in Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendance at many different schools ▪ Lack of personal records needed to enroll ▪ Inability to pay fees ▪ Gaps in skill development ▪ Mistaken diagnosis of abilities ▪ Poor organizational skills ▪ Poor ability to conceptualize
<i>Poor Health/Nutrition</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of immunization and/or immunizations records ▪ Unmet medical and dental needs ▪ Increased vulnerability to colds and flu ▪ Respiratory problems ▪ Skin rashes ▪ Chronic hunger (may hoard food) ▪ Fatigue (may fall asleep in class)
<i>Transportation and Attendance Problems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Erratic attendance and tardiness ▪ Numerous absences ▪ Lack of participation in after school activities ▪ Lack of participation in field trips ▪ Absences on days when students bring special treats from home ▪ Inability to contact parents
<i>Poor Hygiene</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of shower facilities/washers, etc. ▪ Wearing same clothes for several days ▪ Inconsistent grooming (well-groomed one day and poorly groomed the next)
<i>Lack of School Preparedness/Participation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consistent lack of preparation for school ▪ Incomplete or missing homework (no place to work or keep supplies) ▪ Unable to complete special projects (no access to supplies) ▪ Lack of basic school supplies ▪ Loss of books and other supplies on a regular basis ▪ Concern for safety of belongings ▪ Refusing invitations from classmates
<i>Social and Behavioral Concerns</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A marked change in behavior ▪ Poor/short attention span ▪ Poor self-esteem ▪ Extreme shyness ▪ Unwillingness to risk forming relationships with peers and teachers ▪ Difficulty socializing at recess ▪ Difficulty trusting people ▪ Aggression ▪ "Old" beyond years ▪ Protective of parents ▪ Clinging behavior ▪ Developmental delays

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fear of abandonment ▪ School phobia (student wants to be with parent) ▪ Need for immediate gratification ▪ Anxiety late in the school day
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reaction/Statements by Parent, Guardian, or Child</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exhibiting anger or embarrassment when asked about current address ▪ Mention of staying with grandparents, other relatives, friends, or in a motel, or comments, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ "I don't remember the name of our previous school." ✓ "We've been moving around a lot." ✓ "Our address is new; I can't remember it." (May hide lack of permanent address.) ✓ "We're staying with relatives until we get settled." ✓ "We're going through a bad time right now." ✓ "We've been unpacking, traveling, etc." (to explain poor appearance and/or hygiene)