

Important to Understand:

Keep in mind that most homeless students and their families would rather not have their homelessness discovered. First of all, it's embarrassing. They also fear intervention by child welfare authorities.

If you do discover a student is homeless, it is important to offer sensitive and confidential assurance that their circumstances will not get them or their parents in trouble or that the student will be kicked out of school.

Communicate with the Project Home Coordinator.



Project Home



PROJECT HOME *"Ensuring Academic Success for All!"*

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Covington Independent Public Schools

Potential Warning Signs of Homelessness



**McKinney Vento Homeless Education
Assistance Act**

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Homeless Education Program for the Kentucky Department of Education is to be a supporter and nurturer of homeless children and youth; to help them achieve educational success and to prepare them for the challenges of life."

Warning Signs

Lack of Continuity in Education

- Attendance at many different schools
- Lack of personal records needed to enroll
- Gaps in skill development
- Poor organizational skills
- Poor ability to conceptualize



Strengthening Families

Poor Health/Nutrition

- Lack of immunizations and/or health records
- Unmet medical and dental needs
- Chronic hunger (may hoard food)
- Fatigue (may fall asleep in class)

Transportation and Attendance Problems

- Erratic attendance and tardiness
- Numerous absences
- Lack of participation in after-school activities
- Inability to contact parents

Lack of Privacy/Personal Space After School

- 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

Social and Behavior Concerns

- 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
- Fear of abandonment
- School phobia (student wants to be with parent)
- Need for immediate gratification
- Anxiety late in the school day

Poor Hygiene

- Lack of shower facilities/washers, etc.
- Wearing same clothes for several days
- Inconsistent grooming—well-groomed one day and poorly groomed the next day.



Building School Success

Reaction/Statements by Parent, Guardian, Child

- Exhibiting anger or embarrassment when asked about current address
- Mentions staying with grandparent, other relatives, friends, or in a motel or comments:

“I don’t remember the name of our last school.”

“We’ve been moving around a lot.”

“Our address is new; I can’t remember it”

“We’re staying with relatives until we get settled.”

“We’re going through a bad time right now.”

“We’ve been unpacking, traveling, etc.,”



State Coordinator

502-564-3791