

**As we go through our school days, we often have concerns about the children in our care. Do they feel okay? Is something bothering them? Is everything okay at home? Sometimes things are not okay. Below is some key information to help us identify kids who do not have a stable place to live.**

### **TIC and Our Homeless Students - Source:**

<http://nche.ed.gov/>

### **Who are homeless students?**

#### **Includes:**

- **children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals**
- **children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces**
- **migratory children**

**Fact: Homelessness creates significant educational barriers for students.**

### **Warning signs:**

#### **Lack of Continuity in Education**

**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**

#### **Poor Health/Nutrition**

**Lack of immunizations and/or immunization 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)**

### **Transportation and Attendance Problems**

**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**

### **Poor Hygiene**

**Lack of shower facilities/washers, etc.**

**Wearing same clothes for several days**

**Inconsistent grooming – well-groomed one day, poorly groomed the next**

### **Lack of Privacy/Personal Space After School**

**Lack of basic school supplies**

**Loss of books and other supplies on a regular basis**

**Concern for safety of belongings**

**Refusing invitations from classmates**

### **Social and Behavioral Concerns**

**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**

### **Reactions/Statements by Parent, Guardian, or Child**

**Exhibiting anger or embarrassment when asked about current address**

**Mention of staying with grandparents, other relatives, friends, or in a motel**

**What can I do?**

**Speak with your supervisor, school counselor or administrator.**