

Homeless Student Recognition Checklist

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Elementary School

Observations

- Backpacks consistently full of possessions from home
- Hygiene issues and/or clothes are not consistently clean
- Food hoarding
- Personal grooming (can't afford haircuts, etc.)
- Medical and dental issues not addressed
- Frequent or extended absences
- A long list of schools they have attended
- Change in academic performance

Discussions

- Discussions of living locations change, sometimes frequently
- Stories or comments about living arrangements don't ring true are inconsistent

Parents

- Calling to advise of long absences, often tied to "visiting relatives"

Middle and High School

Observations

- Irregular attendance from more than one class period
- Frequent extended absences
- Lack of cleanliness, especially clothing
- Medical and dental issues not addressed
- Change in academic performance

Discussions

- Comments from friends about the homeless youth's situation or invitations to stay with them
...The student is not likely to share their own concerns at this age

Parents

- Explanations for absences or homework lapses don't make sense

Reporting

1. Report concerns to the counselor / administration
2. Follow up to ensure concerns addressed
3. Report to the district homeless liaison if necessary
4. Follow up with the student by conversation or observation

For a full discussion, please see:

www.classroom-teacher-resources.com/homeless-family-homeless-students-recognition-reporting.html