

How to Spot the Signs

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that protects the educational rights of students experiencing housing instability.

Refer students when you see the signs!



1 Poor Health/Nutrition

- Missing immunization and medical records
- Unmet medical and dental needs
- Chronic hunger or food hoarding

2 Transportation & Attendance Challenges

- Numerous absences
- Inability to contact parents
- Lack of participation in after-school programs or field trips

3 Social & Behavioral Concerns

- Sudden change in behavior
- Anxiety (especially late in the school day)
- Difficulty trusting others, socializing, developing relationships

4 Reactions or Statements by Guardians

- Anger, embarrassment, avoidance when asked about current address
- "We're going through a hard time right now"

5 Poor Hygiene

- Wearing the same clothing multiple days
- Lacking shower facilities/washers, etc.

6 Lack of Educational Continuity

- Attendance at many different schools
- Missing records needed to enroll
- Inability to pay fees

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