

CLASSROOM INDICATORS OF HOMELESSNESS

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

Poor Health

- Lack of immunizations/immunization records
- Unmet medical and dental needs
- Increased vulnerability to colds and flu
- Chronic hunger (may hoard food)
- Fatigue (may fall asleep in class)

Transportation and Attendance Problems

- Erratic attendance and tardiness
- Numerous absences
- Absences on days when students bring special treats from home

Poor Hygiene

- Wearing same clothes for several days
- Inconsistent grooming– well-groomed one day, poorly groomed the next

Lack of Privacy/Personal Space After School

- Consistent lack of preparation for school
- Incomplete or missing homework (no place to work or keep supplies)
- Lack of basic school supplies
- Concern for safety of belongings

Social and Behavioral Concerns

- Poor/short attention span
- Poor self esteem
- Unwillingness to risk forming relationships with peers and teachers
- Difficulty socializing at recess
- Developmental delays



Reactions/Statements by Student/Parent

- Exhibiting anger or embarrassment when asked about current address
- Comments such as: “I don’t remember the name of our previous school” or “We’ve been moving around a lot”

* Created by Seattle University’s Project on Family Homelessness
Information from The National Center for Homelessness Education
at <http://center.serve.org/nche/nche/warning.html>