

Supporting Students No Matter What



School staff can help students dealing with unstable housing or homelessness get the tools and support they need to succeed.



Housing instability and homelessness can cause many struggles for children and teens, especially in school. Because students and families may not want to share information about such difficult situations, school staff members can play an important role in helping to identify and support students who may be experiencing homelessness.

If you're noticing signs that a student may be unstably housed (e.g. poor attendance, statements suggesting lack of shelter, poor hygiene, etc.), you can ask these questions to better understand their housing situation:

- Have you recently moved?
- Was your move due to a loss of housing?
- Are you in a safe place?
- Are you staying far away from school?

Avoid using the word "homeless" when speaking to students about their housing situation. Try these suggestions instead:

- Family in transition
- Temporary housing
- Loss of housing
- Unstable housing
- Moving from place to place
- Doubling up with family or friends
- Couch surfing

If you believe a student is likely experiencing homelessness, please direct them to their district **McKinney-Vento Liaison** and assure students that any information disclosed will be kept confidential.

