**why teachers matter**

You have a special role to ensure

educational access and success for our

students experiencing homelessness!

* Be familiar with common signs of homelessness by:
	+ Looking for a history of multiple schools, gaps in learning, or erratic attendance in school records
	+ Listening for parent or student statements about living at different homes or being in transition.
	+ Reviewing Project HOPE-VA’s [MV101 video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOGMozrqHTk) at www.wm.edu/hope
* Accept students where they are by:
	+ Being flexible and persistent
	+ Looking for options that allow you to stay connected with the student and family – you may be the first to learn a family has lost their housing.
	+ Understanding the stressors of the living situation may limit participation in learning
* When you see signs of housing instability, **reach out to your homeless liaison** who can assist by:
	+ Helping students stay connected to the same school when it is in their best interest even if they move
	+ Removing barriers to learning related to homelessness
	+ Helping families access community services

**Please help your liaison help our students and their families!**

Liaison Name:

Phone Number:

Email: