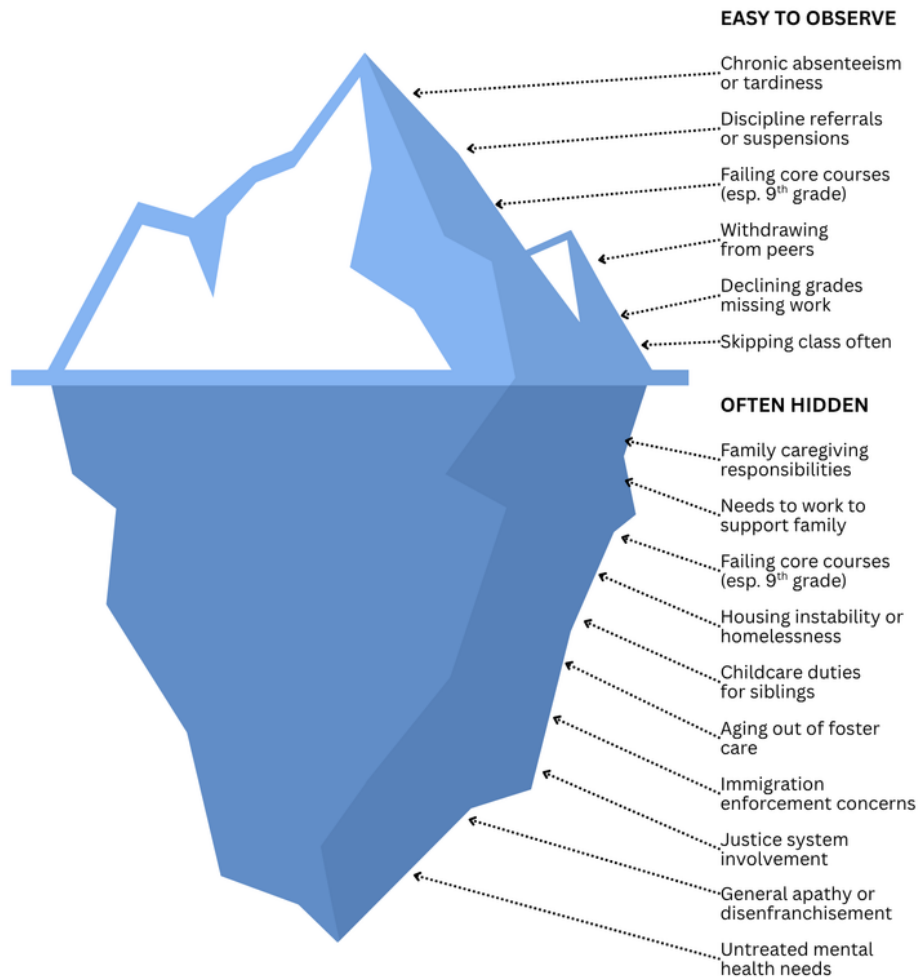




Early Warning Systems & Underlying Causes of Disconnection



Infographic titled "Early Warning Systems & Underlying Causes of Disconnection," produced by the New Jersey Department of Education Student Support Services. The graphic uses an iceberg illustration to distinguish between observable warning signs and hidden root causes of student disconnection.

Above the waterline — Easy to Observe: The visible tip of the iceberg is labeled with six warning signs that are relatively easy for educators to detect: chronic absenteeism or tardiness, discipline referrals or suspensions, failing core courses (especially 9th grade), withdrawing from peers, declining grades and missing work and skipping class often.

Below the waterline — Often Hidden: The much larger submerged portion of the iceberg represents underlying causes that are harder to see but drive the observable warning signs above. Ten hidden factors are listed: family caregiving responsibilities, needs to work to support family, failing core courses (especially 9th grade), housing instability or homelessness, childcare duties for siblings, aging out of foster care, immigration enforcement concerns, justice system involvement, general apathy or disenfranchisement, untreated mental health needs.

The iceberg metaphor conveys that what educators observe on the surface is only a fraction of what is driving a student's disconnection, and that effective intervention requires addressing the deeper, less visible causes.