



Do you know a student who needs support? Make a BrainSTEPS Referral

The BrainSTEPS Teams accept referrals from school districts, agencies, parents, physicians, early intervention service providers, or any other service providers.

Find your local BrainSTEPS Team here:

www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/brainsteps

For general BrainSTEPS CO Program information contact:

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BrainSTEPS CO
www.brainsteps.net



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BrainSTEPS CO

The BrainSTEPS Program consists of brain injury consulting teams who assist Colorado schools in supporting students following acquired brain injury who have moderate to severe levels of need.

An acquired brain injury occurs after birth and includes both traumatic (TBI) and non-traumatic (nTBI) brain injuries.

Traumatic Brain Injuries –

including concussion (mild TBI), moderate and severe caused by an external physical force, e.g., sports/recreational activities, falls, assault, motor vehicle accidents, non-accidental abusive head trauma (“shaken baby syndrome”).

Non-Traumatic Brain Injuries –

caused by an internal event, i.e., stroke, brain tumor, aneurysm, lack of oxygen to the brain (near drowning), lightning strikes, chemotherapy or radiation impacts to the brain, seizure disorder, brain infections (encephalitis, meningitis), toxic or metabolic injury, and viruses.

The Role of BrainSTEPS:

After a brain injury, students may return to school with temporary or lifelong impairments that have a significant impact on performance. BrainSTEPS teams can assist schools by serving as consultants for school personnel of students with brain injuries.

- BrainSTEPS teams assist with the re-entry process for students who have sustained a new brain injury or with students previously identified as having a brain injury who may develop different educational impacts (or latent effects) over the years as their brains mature and develop.
- Teams are comprised of a number of specialties (school psychologists, social workers, nurses, speech language pathologists, administrators, etc.).
- Teams are trained in the identification of brain injuries and neuroeducational evaluations to identify specific needs of students.

Teams support school districts in the following ways:

- ⇒ Identification of students with traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries
- ⇒ School re-entry planning
- ⇒ Intervention selection and implementation
- ⇒ Teacher training, peer training, family training
- ⇒ Student monitoring through graduation
- ⇒ Family support and resource sharing

Some facts about Brain injury:

Brain injury is a **leading cause** of death and disability in children and adolescents.

Physical recovery is not a sign that the brain has healed. You can't gauge recovery from brain injury based on how a child looks on the outside.

Brain injury severity, labeled as “mild, moderate, or severe,” does not equate with how the student will function academically or socially/emotionally in school.

A jolting force to the body may be all the force that is necessary to cause a brain injury.

Children do not simply “bounce back” after brain injury. In fact, injury to the developing brain can impact future learning.

Effects of brain injury are not always immediately apparent and may not become evident until the child passes through important developmental stages. Over time, difficulties may emerge as the academic and cognitive demands increase.

