

Why your District / BOCES should have a BrainSTEPS CO team

Did you know:

Approximately 145,000 children in the US (0-19) are living with brain injury and only 26,371 are receiving special education services under the traumatic brain injury (TBI) category.

A Brain injury of any severity can cause lifelong cognitive and behavioral deficits that may negatively affect a child's future. TBI is associated with higher levels of impulsivity and emotional dysregulation. When we do not identify students with brain injuries and provide services, it may lead to many other secondary consequences such as homelessness, substance abuse, mental health needs and incarceration.

Most educators receive little or no brain injury-specific training and are unprepared to recognize and support the unique educational needs of students with a brain injury.

- ★ BrainSTEPS is a nationally recognized program based on current research and best practices for supporting students with brain injury in the educational setting. This program is free to all Colorado school districts and BOCES.
- ★ Brain injury specialists through the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) provide multiple trainings and technical support in the areas of: typical brain development, recognition and identification of types of injuries, teaching strategies, special education support, up-to-date research, and resources. These teams can also assist with the important hospital to school transitions following a brain injury and are prepared to provide brain injury awareness training to district personnel.
- ★ The BrainSTEPS CO teams include multidisciplinary school professionals offering differing perspectives to support students with brain injuries. The multidisciplinary team should include the following: all special service providers (school psychologists, social workers, nurses, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists) including vision and hearing itinerants and administrators.

It is estimated that up to **45%** of individuals with moderate to severe TBI demonstrate a reduced awareness or complete lack of awareness regarding their injury-imposed deficits.

- ★ The training that BrainSTEPS CO multidisciplinary teams receive will prepare them to consult with school teams and families in the development and delivery of educational services for students who have experienced **any** type of acquired brain injury.
 - Traumatic** acquired brain injuries might include falls, assault, motor vehicle accidents, and sports or recreational activities.
 - Non-traumatic** acquired brain injuries might include strokes, brain tumors, lack of oxygen to the brain, lightning strikes, near drownings, seizure disorders, brain infections, substance abuse, and viruses.