



**Do you know a student who is
needing 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



BrainSTEPS CO
www.brainsteps.net

**The Brain Injury Consulting
Program assists schools in
supporting students with
acquired brain injury in many
different ways.**

**For general BrainSTEPS CO Program
information contact:**

Toni Grishman, BSN, RN

BrainSTEPS Program Coordinator

Email: grishman_t@cde.state.co.us

or

Heather Hotchkiss, MSW

BrainSTEPS Program Coordinator

Email: hotchkiss_h@cde.state.co.us



**The BrainSTEPS CO Program is
jointly funded through the
Colorado Department of
Education and MINDSOURCE**



BrainSTEPS CO

The BrainSTEPS (Strategies Teaching Educators, Parents, & Students) Brain Injury Consulting Program assists Colorado schools in creating educational plans for students following acquired brain injury who have moderate to severe levels of need. BrainSTEPS work with students who have sustain a type of acquired brain injury (ABI).

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

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 brain injury consultants to the school districts and teachers of students with brain injury.

- BrainSTEPS 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.
- Team members are from a variety of disciplines (school psychologists, social workers, nurses, speech language pathologists, administrators, etc.).
- Teams are trained in the identification of brain injury and neuroeducational evaluation to identify specific needs of students.

Supports school districts in the following ways:

- ⇒ Identification of students with traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries
- ⇒ School re-entry planning
- ⇒ Intervention selection and implementation
- ⇒ Educational plan development
- ⇒ 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 demands are increased on parts of the brain originally injured.

