



Why Your District/BOCES Needs a BrainSTEPS CO Brain Injury Consulting Team

Students with brain injury are **UNDERIDENTIFIED**, and have unique physical, cognitive, and behavioral needs that impact their learning. Best practice indicates that the consulting team model helps to ensure that individuals who provide educational support to children with brain injury have an understanding of brain injury, the resulting challenges, and the supports/interventions that will help these students achieve educational success.
And, when you understand the brain, you understand learning and behavior.

BrainSTEPS CO Premise:

If brain injury related educational supports:

- ✓ Are **immediately frontloaded** upon return to school,
- ✓ **Include validated** instructional practices,
- ✓ Are **monitored** (phased out, continued, or increased) over time.

Students with brain injury will:

- ✓ Receive appropriate levels of support based on need/changing needs over time,
- ✓ Not experience academic failure,
- ✓ Remain in school & graduate.

BrainSTEPS CO Team Training:

- is based on **current research** and best practices
- covers **brain injury causes**, consequences, identification, assessment, teaching strategies, transitions, resources, etc.
- new team/team member **training** takes place each fall (on-line application is found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/brainsteps>)
- follow-up **capacity building** training is held each spring
- is provided **free of cost** to team members (travel reimbursement for those coming over 100 miles)

BrainSTEPS CO Teams Provide the Following Services to their District/BOCES:

- **consultation to educators** on specific brain injury cases
- **technical assistance** to educators on specific brain injury cases
- **consultation to parents** on any student with brain injury referred to the team
- hospital to school **transition coordination** for students with brain injury
- brain injury **awareness training** to district personnel
- student specific brain injury training to **building level teams**
- dissemination of brain injury **resource information** (e.g., written information, links to websites, referrals to community resources, etc.) to educators, families, and community providers working with students with brain injury

BrainSTEPS CO Teams Serve the Following Types of Brain Injuries:

- Concussions (mild TBI)-if needed after 6 weeks, **moderate and severe Traumatic Brain Injuries** caused by sports/recreational activities, falls, assault, abuse, motor vehicle crashes (includes bicycle), pedestrian accidents, and shaken baby syndrome.
- **Non-Traumatic Brain Injuries** caused by strokes, brain tumors, aneurysms, lack of oxygen to the brain, lightning strikes, near drownings, seizure disorders, brain infections (encephalitis, meningitis), toxic or metabolic injuries, and viruses.

Who should be Members of Your BOCES/District's BrainSTEPS CO Team?

School-based professionals who:

- have flexibility in their schedules to attend brain injury trainings/meetings and to provide technical assistance, consultation and training
- have demonstrated a desire and commitment to be a part of a BrainSTEPS CO team
- are from a variety of disciplines (e.g., school psychologists, social workers, nurses, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, administrators, etc.)

Why should Your BOCES/District Establish a BrainSTEPS CO Team?

- Brain injury of any severity may cause cognitive and behavioral problems that can negatively affect a child's future ability to learn and perform in school.
- Most educators receive little or no brain injury-specific training and are unprepared to recognize and manage the unique educational needs of students with brain injury.
- BrainSTEPS CO teams receive in-depth training in brain injury that 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.
- BrainSTEPS CO teams assists schools in building their local capacity to serve students with brain injury.

***For more information about establishing a
BrainSTEPS CO Team in your District/BOCES contact:***

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or visit

www.brainsteps.net