



BrainSTEPS

Strategies Teaching Educators, Parents, & Students
A BRAIN INJURY SCHOOL RE-ENTRY CONSULTING PROGRAM

www.brainsteps.net

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The BrainSTEPS (Strategies Teaching Educators, Parents, & Students) Brain Injury School Re-Entry Consulting Program assists Pennsylvania schools in creating appropriate educational plans for students following acquired brain injury (ABI). ABIs are brain injuries that occur after birth and include both traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and non-traumatic brain injuries (non-TBI).

After a brain injury, students may return to school with temporary or lifelong impairments that have a significant impact on school performance. BrainSTEPS has been designed to consult with school teams and families in the development and delivery of educational services for students who have experienced any type of brain injury.

BrainSTEPS supports school districts and families in the following ways:

- Identification of students with brain injury
- School re-entry planning
- Educational plan development, including: IEP/504 Plan support, academic adjustments/accommodations, and strategy selection
- Teacher, peer, and family training
- Annual monitoring of student until graduation
- Family support and resource sharing
- Return to Learn concussion management
- Facilitation of communication between healthcare provider, school staff, and family

BrainSTEPS accepts student referrals for new injuries or injuries that occurred in the past. BrainSTEPS serves students who experience the following types of brain injuries:

- **Concussion (Mild Traumatic Brain Injury)**
Referrals should be made at 4 to 6 weeks post-concussion if the student has not recovered.
- **Moderate and Severe Traumatic Brain Injury**
Referrals should be made immediately.

TBI results from an external physical force commonly caused by sports/recreational activities, falls, assault, abuse, gunshot wounds, motor vehicle accidents (includes bicycle), pedestrian accidents, and abusive head trauma.

- **Non-Traumatic Brain Injury**

Referrals should be made immediately.

Non-TBI results from an internal process such as stroke, brain tumor, aneurysm, lack of oxygen to the brain, lightning strike, chemotherapy/radiation impacts to the brain, near drowning, brain infections/viruses, (encephalitis, meningitis), toxic injury (carbon monoxide, lead, chemical poisoning), a cardiac event, and diabetic coma.

Brain Injury Facts:

- Brain injury is a **leading** cause of disability in children and adolescents.
- Physical recovery is not a sign that the brain has healed.
- Effects of brain injury are not always immediately apparent and may not become evident until the child reaches important developmental stages. Over time, difficulties may emerge as the demands on parts of the brain originally injured are increased.

How to Make a BrainSTEPS Referral

Anyone can make a referral:

1. Go to **www.brainsteps.net**
2. Click on Make a Student Referral and fill out the required information.
3. Click submit.

General BrainSTEPS Program Information:

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Pennsylvania

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