



Remember...

Even a mild brain injury can cause educational problems

Please direct referrals to Judy Moser
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BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT TEAM

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<https://www.centralriversaea.org/special-education/student-family-services/brain-injury/>



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*Providing a
coordinated approach
to assist students with*

BRAIN INJURY

**CENTRAL RIVERS AEA
BRAIN INJURY
SUPPORT TEAMS**

A brain injury is an injury to the brain that happens sometime after birth. It may be caused by an accident or by illness. Sometimes the injury may lead to other complications that don't appear until later, such as:

- Altered states of consciousness
- Behavior disorders
- Communication disorders
- Coordination disorders
- Emotional disorders
- Learning disorders
- Memory disorders

The State of Iowa definition recognizes that acquired brain injuries may be caused by one or more of the following:

- Traumas from accidents, falls, assaults, and surgical procedures
- Infections (e.g., meningitis, encephalitis)
- Strokes and other vascular accidents
- Anoxic injuries caused by a reduction in the oxygen supply to the brain from anesthetic, accidents, hanging, choking, near drowning, and severe loss of blood
- Tumors of the brain
- Metabolic disorders (e.g., insulin shock, liver and kidney disease)
- Toxic products taken into the body through inhalation or ingestion

Brain injury may or may not result in a loss of consciousness; however, any brain injury may have a major impact on new learning and everyday functioning. Students may be served in a wide variety of educational settings in order to maintain optimal academic performance and to develop maximum independence.

Brain Injury Resource Team...

- Assists building-level teams in working with hospital rehabilitation staff in preparing for the student's return to school
- Provides consultation to building-level teams in the planning and delivery of educational services
- Offers in-service training for local districts
- Connects educators and families with resources
- Collaborates with building-level teams in addressing educational issues such as:
 - Accommodations/modifications that may be necessary
 - Additional school-based services and supports that may be needed
 - Considerations for the least restrictive environment for returning to school
 - Modifications of class schedule and/or physical environment
 - Positive behavioral supports for students with brain injuries



Post-concussive syndrome

Even a mild brain injury can result in a post-concussive syndrome, which can last a year or more.

Indicators include:

- Dull headaches that come and go
- Extreme fatigue, especially at the end of the day
- Mood swings and irritability
- Short attention span
- Trouble with remembering and following directions
- Trouble with large groups and high noise levels
- Increased need for individual attention
- Increased need for adult supervision

How parents and educators can help...

- Spend extra time with the student
- Be patient
- Give extra time to complete tasks
- Provide a quiet learning and working environment
- Get to know and understand the student's strengths and needs
- Stay flexible

Contact the Resource Team when...

- A student has sustained a moderate or severe brain injury
- A student continues to display "post-concussive syndrome" more than six weeks after a mild or moderate brain injury
- A student's health history suggests a past brain injury and educational accommodations may be required
- Anytime help is needed with a brain injured student