

# MARCH 2024 BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

**Brain Injury Awareness Month provides an important opportunity to bring attention to the prevention of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and to promote strategies to improve the quality of life for person living with TBI and their families.**

**A traumatic brain injury (TBI) can be mild, moderate or severe. It is defined as a disruption in the normal functioning of the brain due to a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022).**



**The LIU 18 BrainSTEPS team is available to consult with and educate public school staff supporting children and teens who may have experienced an Acquired Brain Injury or Traumatic Brain Injury.**

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## **Acquired Brain Injury**

**An acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma. Essentially, this type of brain injury is one that has occurred after birth. There are two types of acquired brain injury: traumatic and non-traumatic.**

## **Traumatic Brain Injury**

**A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is defined as an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force or trauma. Traumatic impact injuries can be defined as closed (or non-penetrating) or open (penetrating).**



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

## A Brain Injury School Consulting Program for Students in Pennsylvania Public Schools

### Services for Students with Brain Injury provided by BrainSTEPS Consulting Teams:



School Re-Entry  
Planning



Educational Plan  
Development



Annual Monitoring  
until Graduation



Training for Teachers



Transition Planning



Family Support and  
Resource Sharing



Outreach to Medical,  
Rehabilitation, and  
Community  
Organizations



**MAKE A REFERRAL:**  
[www.brainsteps.net](http://www.brainsteps.net)

Scan the QR code to make a referral online, or visit our website to learn more about the BrainSTEPS program.

### ABOUT THE BrainSTEPS PROGRAM

Your local BrainSTEPS Team consults with schools, parents, and students in the development of educational supports for students who have experienced any type of acquired brain injury. An Acquired Brain Injury is a traumatic or non-traumatic brain injury that occurs at any time after a child is born, not prior to or during birth.

### WHO BrainSTEPS SUPPORTS

Students with a new or prior traumatic brain injury (including concussions) or non-traumatic brain injury of any severity are accepted.

### The following are examples of some common acquired brain injury causes:

- Motor vehicle or bike crash
- Pedestrian accident
- Falls
- Assault/abuse
- Sports/recreation activities
- Stroke
- Brain tumor
- Lack of oxygen
- Near drowning
- Carbon monoxide/lead poisoning
- Long-COVID
- PANS/PANDAS
- Encephalitis/meningitis
- Long-term chemotherapy and radiation brain effects

The PA Department of Health created BrainSTEPS in 2007. BrainSTEPS is jointly funded by the PA Department of Health and the PA Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. The program is implemented by PA's 29 Intermediate Units and overseen by the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania.





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**BRAINSTEPS**

PENNSYLVANIA'S  
NATIONALLY  
RECOGNIZED  
BRAIN INJURY SCHOOL  
CONSULTING PROGRAM

REFER  
STUDENTS  
NOW

[www.brainsteps.net](http://www.brainsteps.net)

The graphic features a background of colorful geometric shapes (triangles, circles) and a central image of two young girls sitting at a desk, focused on their schoolwork. One girl is wearing a yellow shirt and the other a blue shirt. The overall design is bright and educational.