

Traumatic Brain Injury

Definition:

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) means an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child's/student's educational performance. Traumatic brain injury applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem-solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech. Traumatic brain injury does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

Criteria:

Criteria for a Physical Disability in the area of TBI preventing the child/student from receiving reasonable education benefit from general education should be dependent upon whether the child's/student's disability meets the educational criteria for Traumatic Brain Injury and interferes with the following:

The child's/student's Physical Disability in the area of TBI is characterized by:

- Medical documentation of a Traumatic Brain Injury or History of a Traumatic Brain Injury; and
- Educational evidence of an deficits relating to the Traumatic Brain Injury

The child's/student's Physical Disability in the area of TBI interferes with:

- Walking, writing, and self-help skills; *and/or*
- Ability to recall information and learn new material; *and/or*
- Language skills; *and/or*
- Attention/Memory; *and/or*
- Visual-spatial and motor deficits; *and/or*
- Planning and organization

Additional Resources and Information:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/TBI-MANUALmar2002.pdf>

Although this is titled as an Educator's Manual, this reference contains useful information for parents and families of children diagnosed with traumatic brain injury.

<http://www.biausa.org/>

Brain Injury Association of America provides legislative information, educational resources, and research for families and professionals.