

*People who access TBI support services through the Oregon TBI Team often report relief as they build connections, find answers and discover more effective ways to work with students who have sustained brain injuries.*

**There are not words to express my** gratitude to this group of outstanding professionals for their response to our distress call for help. The training that I received helped me develop effective teaching methods and design a curriculum that was meaningful and realistic for [this student with TBI]. There was a vast impact on all of the individuals working with [this student] in the school setting as a result of the Team efforts.

*~ Oregon Special Education Teacher following TBI TEAM consultation*

**After I went to the training on** behavioral interventions, I realized we've always focused on consequences to correct problem behavior. I left with a real focus on trying to dissect the antecedents instead of coming up with more consequences. It has really changed the way that I approach dealing with the youngsters.

*~ Special Education Consultant after attending TBI training*

**OBIRN** is a fantastic service! I am so appreciative of the assistance and am very impressed with the range of up-to-date information provided me within a few days. Thanks you so much for assisting my research into educating children with TBI.

*~ Classroom Teacher*

TBI EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING TEAM  
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**WHAT IS  
DIFFERENT  
ABOUT...**

**T**RAUMATIC

**B**RAIN

**I**NJURY?

**Oregon TBI Educational Consulting Team**

Center on Brain Injury Research and Training

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## **TBI HAS A HEAVY IMPACT ON THE STUDENT, THE FAMILY, AND THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY**

TBI impacts a student's ability to learn and perform across cognitive, behavioral, academic and social realms in ways that are often unpredictable and confusing.

A student with TBI may exhibit:

- ◆ impulsivity
- ◆ profound emotional changes
- ◆ changes in judgment
- ◆ communication challenges
- ◆ behavioral changes
- ◆ learning difficulties
- ◆ etc.

Although students with TBI may share some common characteristics, all students with TBI have unique needs, which make individual planning and intervention strategies essential for educational success.

The effects of TBI may not be apparent immediately, with educational concerns arising well after resolution of the medical crisis. Because of this, issues arising from TBI may wrongly be attributed to development (*he's being a typical teenager*), willful misconduct (*she's just trying to get attention*) or some other cause. This may result in promotion of ineffective or even harmful attempts to effect change in the student.

## **TBI IS UNDER-IDENTIFIED**

A comparison of current TBI child count numbers to injury rates shows that students with TBI are significantly under-identified.

Using the estimated annual rate of TBI in children (180/100,000), about 1,018 Oregon students are hospitalized for TBI each year. Based on national averages, it is estimated that approximately 16% of these children will be left with significant alterations in functioning. For grades k-12, a conservative cumulative total suggests that 1,955 Oregon students should be identified for special education services under TBI.

However, there is a gap between the predicted number of students and those being served in schools under 504, Special Education or other programs.

## **HELP IS AVAILABLE!**

In Oregon, educators can access technical assistance, training and support through the Center on Brain Injury Research and Training (CBIRT) and Oregon Department of Education in the following ways:

### **TBI Regional Liaisons**

The state of Oregon is divided into regions to better serve students with low incidence disabilities. Each region is assigned a TBI Liaison to provide regional leadership, assist districts to identify needs and build regional capacity to serve students with TBI in schools.

### **TBI Consulting Teams**

These interdisciplinary regional teams of consultants offer training, consultation and assistance to educators and districts working with students who have TBI.

### **Statewide TBI Seminar Series**

Throughout the academic year CBIRT conducts training seminars on various aspects of TBI in schools. Led by nationally recognized experts in the field, statewide seminars are open to parents, educators and other school professionals from across the state, for a nominal fee.

### **Oregon Brain Injury Resource Network (OBIRN)**

The OBIRN library provides information to individuals with brain injury, their families, and the professionals who serve them. Services include personalized searches of literature and resources.

### **Website**

The website offers evidence-based information and resources to people working with students who have a traumatic brain injury. Information is provided to help educators learn more about brain injury, identify, evaluate, write IEPs, develop instruction and help plan transitions for students with TBI. Also available on the site are short online interactive trainings.

**For information regarding any of the above services, please contact the Oregon TBI Team:**

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