

# Evaluation

## TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

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## **TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**

### **What is Required**

A student must be assessed under the IDEA in all areas of suspected disability. Traumatic brain injury or “TBI” is one of the areas of eligible disabilities under the IDEA.

A student with traumatic brain injury (TBI) is one who has been determined to meet the criteria for traumatic brain injury. Traumatic brain injury 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, and that adversely affects the student’s educational performance.

TBI applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas: cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgement; problem-solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech.

TBI does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

To assess for TBI, the District or Campus Assessment Personnel will comply with the general evaluation procedures. See [EVALUATION PROCEDURES]. In addition, a licensed physician must be included in the group of qualified professionals that collects or reviews evaluation data in connection with the determination of a student’s eligibility for special education services based on a traumatic brain injury.

### **Additional Procedures**

Campus Personnel and/or a student’s parent may refer the student for a traumatic brain injury evaluation when the Campus Personnel and/or parent suspects that functional and/or psychosocial deficits are the result of the student’s acquired brain injury that adversely affects the student’s educational performance.

In order to make a determination of eligibility based on TBI, the ARD Committee must have input from a licensed physician. If the student has a physician, the Campus or District Assessment Personnel may request that the student’s physician provide the input regarding the student’s brain injury. The Campus or District Assessment Personnel must request that the parent sign a Consent for Release of Information so that the Assessment Personnel may communicate with the student’s physician to obtain this health information and/or provide any clarifying health information to the ARD Committee. If the parent

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refuses to sign the release and/or the student does not have a regular physician, the District or Campus Assessment Personnel must arrange for the student to be evaluated by a District-provided physician. To initiate the process of a District-provided physician, parents should contact the Director of Special Services.

After completion of the FIE, the District will convene an ARD Committee meeting to review the FIE. The ARD Committee must determine whether the student meets eligibility criteria for traumatic brain injury based on the results of student's evaluation, including the input from a physician.

If the student does not meet the eligibility criteria for TBI, or any other eligibility criteria under the IDEA, or does not need special education or related services due to his/her disability, Campus Personnel may refer the student to the Campus or District Personnel responsible for compliance with Section 504 to determine whether the student is eligible for accommodations or services as a student with a disability under Section 504.

## **Evidence of Implementation**

- Notice of Evaluation
- Consent for Evaluation
- Referral Information
- Assessment Plan
- Physician Diagnostic Information Report
- FIE
- ARD/IEP

## **Resources**

[The Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process: Traumatic Brain Injury - Region 18](#)

[Traumatic Brain Injury - Texas Education Agency](#)

[Traumatic Brain Injury Resource Document - Navigate Life Texas](#)

[Traumatic Brain Injury - SPEDTEX](#)

[OSEP Letter to Harrington \(July 13, 1993\) - U.S. Department of Education](#)



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## CITATIONS

Board Policy EHBAA; Board Policy EHBAB; 34 CFR 300.8(c)(12), 300.304(c)(4); 19 TAC 89.1040(b)–(c), 89.1050(a)(5)