

FACT SHEET



Traumatic Brain Injury

Evaluation for Special Education

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in 2004, includes important procedures which schools must use when evaluating eligibility for special education services. An initial evaluation involves the use of a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information to assist in determining if the child is eligible for special education. A two-pronged test for eligibility is used in making the determination: (1) whether the child is a child with an exceptionality (disability or giftedness) as defined in federal and state laws and regulations; and (2) by reason thereof, has a need for special education and related services. Having information, assessments, or diagnosis from sources external to the school is

helpful but is not sufficient to determine eligibility for special education under IDEA.

A child must NOT be determined to be a child with an exceptionality if: (a) the determinant factor is: lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction (defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency including oral reading skills, and reading comprehension strategies); lack of appropriate instruction in math; or Limited English proficiency; and (b) the child does not otherwise meet the eligibility criteria as a child with an exceptionality.

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, that adversely affects educational performance.

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Traumatic Brain Injury

The term shall apply to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, including the following: (1) cognition; (2) language; (3) memory; (4) attention; (5) reasoning; (6) abstract thinking; (7) judgment; (8) problem-solving; (9) sensory,

perceptual and motor abilities; (10) psychosocial behavior; (11) physical functions; (12) information processing; and (13) speech. The term shall not include brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or that are induced by birth trauma. KAR 91-40-1 (sss)

More Information and Resources

[KSDE Kansas Special Education Process Handbook](#)

[KSDE Kansas Eligibility Indicators](#)

[Center on Brain Injury Research and Training](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention Heads Up \(Brain Injury\)](#)

[Mayo Clinic](#)

For more information, contact:

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