

## Why is a proper and timely diagnosis of TBI important for a student's future?

*A few good reasons:*

- Accurate identification increases others' understanding of the root cause of a student's difficulties. An understanding of what is causing the problems can lead to better support services for the student.
- There are very few services available for adults with TBI who did not have a special education TBI eligibility.
- A SPED eligibility during the school years may help in establishing eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

## Why not just identify the student as LD, OHI or a different eligibility?

*A few good reasons:*

- Other disabilities are less variable over time and setting. If a student with a brain injury is not identified as having TBI and issues arise later, the TBI may be forgotten.
- Additional needs may occur after the student is no longer eligible under another disability category.
- Difficulties resulting from the injury may not be recognized as associated with the brain injury.
- Identifying a student with a TBI as eligible under another category contributes to the under-identification of students with TBI. This contributes to TBI being considered a low-incidence disability.

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### Questions? Contact . . .

Melissa Nowatzke

TBI Team Project Coordinator

541-346-0597

[nowatzkm@cbirt.org](mailto:nowatzkm@cbirt.org)