Quick Tip Sheet for Supporting Students with Mild TBIs

General Overview:

A concussion is a mild form of traumatic brain injury (TBI) caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. Concussions can also occur from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head to move rapidly back and forth. Doctors may describe these injuries as "mild" because concussions are usually not life-threatening. Even so, their effects can be serious. Students who have suffered from a concussion (mild traumatic brain injury) can have various struggles in school. All brain injuries are unique and predicting the length of recovery or need for accommodations is difficult; therefore, a student needs both a flexible and individualized plan addressing their specific injury and needs. It is also important to take into account how much a student wants to be singled out. Not all students want extra attention placed on them, so some accommodations should only be offered if it is something the student is comfortable with.

Fatigue - both cognitive and physical Reduced concentration and focus Vision trouble/difficulty reading Increased headache pain Sleep disturbance (not enough or too much sleep) Emotional Lability/Mood changes/Anxiety



Accommodations:

- Partial school attendance (e.g., half days)
- Shortened assignments/prorated workload
- Reduced make-up work
- Point person/opportunities to talk with counselor or staff when needed
- Preferential seating
- Extended time for assignments and/or tests

- Allowance to wear sunglasses/hat
- Limited computer usage
- Restriction from standardized testing
- Lunch in a quiet place
- Limited physical education activities
- Access to school elevator
- Return to play protocol
- Guided study hall/tutor support
- Extra set of books

- Leave early from class to avoid congestion in hallways
- Access to water bottle
- Liberal bathroom privileges
- Frequent and/or scheduled rest breaks
- Audio books
- Text-to-speech or Speech-to-text
- Pre-printed notes