



## Brain Injury Awareness Day

Brain injuries are one of the leading causes of death and disability among children and adolescents in the United States. In fact, about 62,000 youth (19 years old or younger) sustain brain injuries that require a visit to the hospital each year. These injuries can result from motor vehicle accidents, falls, sporting and recreational activities, or physical abuse (Brain Injury Association of America). Furthermore, research suggests the rates of emergency department visits for brain injuries are increasing. For example, the rate of emergency department visits for sports and recreation-related brain injuries increased by 57% between 2001 and 2009 for children 19 years old or younger (CDC, 2011).

Given the significant numbers of students experiencing brain injuries, it is important for educators to understand how to best support these students as they recover. Unfortunately, educators often do not receive training on the impacts of these injuries or strategies to ensure effective transitions back to school. With it being Brain Injury Awareness Day on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, this e-blast is designed to share resources about brain injuries among youth and address this gap. One way to learn more about brain injuries and supporting students who sustain them is by consulting the “**Ohio Return to Learn: Concussion Team Model**.” This model was developed by Dr. Susan Davies from the University of Dayton along with the Ohio Department of Health. It provides strategies for Ohio schools to use when helping students transition back into classrooms following a brain injury. This model offers online trainings and additional resources to ensure students return to school safely and continue learning. Please use the following link to learn more:

<https://www.odh.ohio.gov/health/vipp/child/returntoplay/returntolearn/Return%20to%20Learn%20-%20A%20Concussion%20Team%20Model.aspx>

The Project AWARE Ohio team includes partners in 3 county ESCs. If you are from those local areas and want more information about Project AWARE services, please contact:

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