A Parent’s Perspective: TBI in the School Setting

By Tracy Dumais
At the time of injury, 1-2% survival rate.

**IMPACT**

- **Initial Injury**
  - Injury from Subdural Hematoma bleeding
  - Secondary Injury from brain movement
Technology Increases Survival

Still NO idea how Brain Rewires after Injury
Invisible Disability

“Looks Normal” Physically

- Extreme pressure,
  Increased pacing, & Quick thinking situations show TBI

- Tests,
- SOLs,
- Quizzes WILL randomly show failure when classwork shows success

Fatigue issues appear randomly and can be debilitating.
The Brain tries to develop new pathways but they are unreliable.

No Studies being done on long term effects of child TBI survivors.
versus

Former Senator
Kathy Giffords

No Acquired SKILLS

Disrupted Brain & Physical Development

GROW INTO INJURY

Difficulties Appear Out of NOWHERE & Need Immediate Accommodations

Acquired SKILLS Prior to Injury

FULLY DEVELOPED Physically & Mentally

Difficult Areas EASIER to Identify since Development is DONE.
Elementary

Increases in difficulty as student develops.

Early Interventions of Organization help

Study Habits can be Instilled at an early age.

Constant Repetition of Concepts is NORMAL.

Middle & High School

Difficulties in adjusting Instruction - Continuous repetition needed

Stamina or Fatigue increases as DEMANDS increase beyond medication

Executive Functioning NOT Fully developed till age 24

PUBERTY will cause issues
Stamina & Fatigue

It's Like a VIDEO GAME LIFE BAR

Each and Every Task in a Day SUCKS away at the Life
MEMORY
Helpful Accommodations

Mental “Check ins”
With tests longer than 30 minutes.

Word Banks & Multiple Choice
To help with memory recall of content

One Summative test per day
Benchmarks & VA testing should be considered here.

Study Guides 3 blocks prior to summative tests
Helps with memory recall, repetition & storage of key concepts
Helpful Accommodations

**SOLs**
Broken into consecutive sessions & at the start of the school day.

**Core Subject Scheduling**
Start the day with hardest subjects

**Classroom lecture notes**
Provided if student needs
Point your parents to these helpful resources:

http://www.lapublishing.com/

4th Edition
Negotiating the Special Education Maze
A Guide for Parents & Teachers

brainline.org

BRAIN INJURY SERVICES

http://www.lapublishing.com/
General Education Population

Broadband

TBI Population

Dial-up
Flipped Teaching + Active Learning = Amazing Educational Possibilities!
Scientifically Based Study Skills

http://www.learningscientists.org/
It’s a balancing act...

Homework,
SOL after school review,
Studying,
SOL TESTING

FATIGUE
THE BRAIN HAS NO LIMITS!
Thank you for coming.