



# Brain Tumor

## An overview for school professionals

**Brain tumor-** is a mass or growth of abnormal cells that occur in the brain or the tissue and structures that are near it. Many different types of pediatric brain tumors exist — some are noncancerous (benign) and some are cancerous (malignant). Depending on the type of pediatric brain tumor, the treatments can include biopsy of tumor, tumor removal, chemotherapy and radiation.

### What are some common symptoms/side effects of the treatment for a brain tumor?

- Fatigue
- Nausea/vomiting
- Weakness
- Decreased alertness
- Decreased ability to attend to tasks

### What type of support plan is appropriate for a student with brain tumor?

Students with brain tumor should have a 504 plan/IEP. The diagnosis of brain tumor gives reasonable cause to bypass the SST process, which will allow you to provide immediate accommodations to the student. All teachers who provide instruction for your student should be made aware of these accommodations.

### What accommodations are necessary for a student with brain tumor?

**ATTENDANCE:** Students with a brain tumor may frequently miss school. They may require hospitalizations from time to time, sometimes for several weeks.

- full-time and/or intermittent hospital homebound services
- Suspension of attendance requirements for absences due to medical appointments and illness, including allowances for student to participate in extra-curricular programs and events without penalty due to absences.
- partial-day attendance, as necessary

**ASSIGNMENTS:** It is important for teacher and parents to ensure that student receive assignments in a timely manner so student does not get further behind. It may also take the student with brain tumor longer to complete assignments due to fatigue, pain, and/or weakness due to current treatment plan.

- a system for providing advance assignments to the parent or student for absences due to planned medical appointments
- a system for providing make-up assignments in a timely manner when patient is absent due to illness or hospitalization
- Modified assignments: Shorten assignments to emphasize mastery and to limit repetition.
- extra time to make up missed assignments
- The student should be allowed extended time and may need rescheduled test dates if he/she is admitted to the hospital or ill on the day of testing.

The list of accommodations above is not meant to be exhaustive; each student's unique needs will dictate the appropriate accommodations to be listed in his/her 504 plan.