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March 7, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Directors of Special Education

FROM: Susan Martz, Chief Learning Supports and Specialized Services Officer/
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services

SUBJECT: Resources for Brain Injury Awareness Month

March has been designated Brain Injury Awareness Month, and this memo provides resources and information about Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) that educators may find useful. Brain Injury Awareness Month is an opportune time for educators to increase the public's understanding of prevention, treatment, educational strategies, and services to support individuals who have suffered a traumatic brain injury.

In New Jersey, recent data indicates that over 600 students are classified for special education and related services under the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) disability category. Furthermore, students with TBI include those with concussions and those who experience varying short- or long-term physical, cognitive, emotional and social effects.

To assist educators and parents, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is providing these resources:

- [The NJDOE's Special Education Website Resources](#)
- [Sports-Related Concussion and Head Injury Model Policy and Updates](#) – Available on the NJDOE's Comprehensive Health and Physical Education webpage
- [NJDOE Learning Resource Centers](#) – Providing fact sheets, brochures, and circulation materials
- [The Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey](#) – Offers webinars and a free [online course for school professionals](#), with professional development hours through Rutgers University, Division of Continuing Education and Outreach.

Please share these resources and information about TBI by distributing information from this memorandum as appropriate.

SM/JW/KM/yb

c: Members, State Board of Education
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