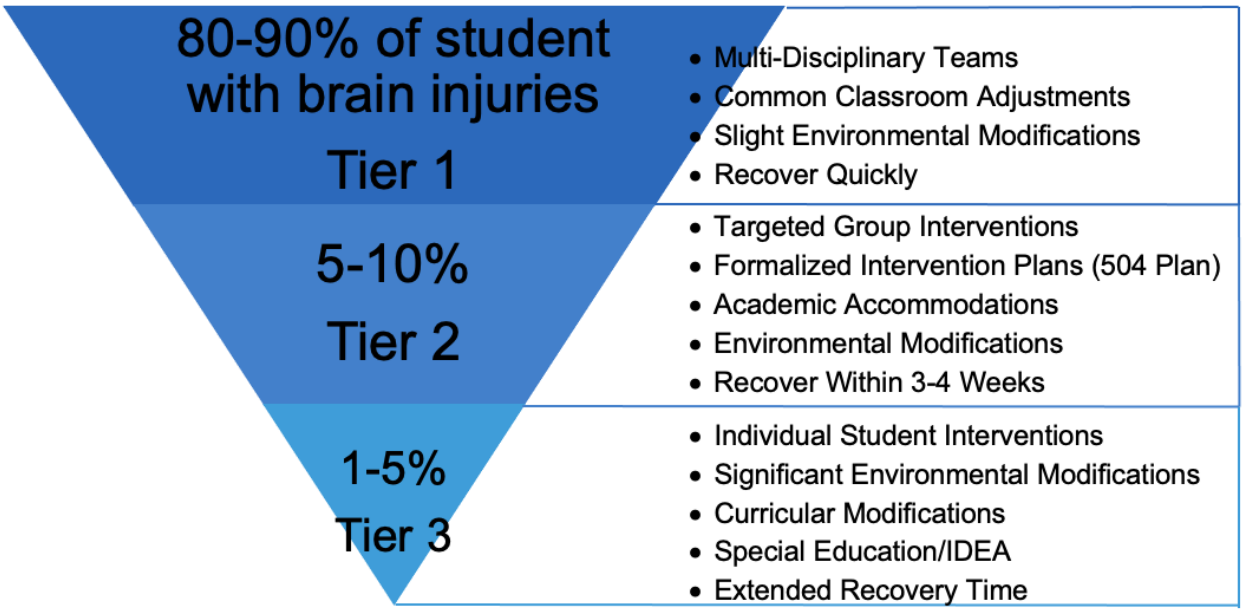
Post-Concussion Academic Accommodation Protocol

Most students who sustain a concussion return to pre-injury functioning within 3–4 weeks of their injury. However, symptoms will linger beyond this time in approximately 10–20% of concussions. When this happens, the school team must continue academic adjustments and physical restrictions for a longer time. Symptoms might continue for weeks or even months. It is best practice for a school district to have a system in place by which a student can be evaluated for additional services (e.g., Section 504 Plan, special education).

A school-wide academic accommodation protocol for students with concussions or brain injuries can be effectively implemented in most schools using the following progression.



1. Tier 1: The majority of students with a concussion will respond positively to a well-orchestrated system of cognitive reduction, physical rest, simple classroom adjustments to the existing classroom curriculum, and slight environmental changes to support physical and cognitive rest. At Tier 1, the Concussion Management Team (CMT) can collect data on symptoms to monitor progress and make modifications as needed.

2. Tier 2: The 10–20% of students who experience symptoms beyond the typical 3-to-4-week recovery period can be systematically moved on to Tier 2 for Targeted Intervention. At Tier 2,

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a more formalized academic plan might be required for the student (Health Plan, RTI Plan, or Section 504 Plan). The objective of Tier 2 is to expand and strengthen academic accommodations to effect greater recovery from the concussion.

3. Tier 3: The 1–5% of students who do not adequately respond to concussion management efforts at Tiers 1 and 2 experience severe, long-term neurocognitive and physical effects for weeks or months. Students who do not benefit from management attempts at Tiers 1 or 2 would be advanced to the most intensive level of assessment and intervention provided at Tier 3. At this level, modification of curriculum and protection under IDEA, including an IEP, may be necessary.

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