



Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services



Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

The 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) affords ORS the opportunity to provide students with disabilities who have IEPs or 504 plans, regardless of application status, with Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). These Pre-ETS Services are authorized on a fee-for-service basis, with ORS-approved vendors, to students with disabilities. The Pre-ETS services are quite prescriptive and limited to these five focus areas: (1) Job Exploration Counseling, (2) Work-Based Learning, (3) Counseling Opportunities for Enrollment in Comprehensive Transition or Post-Secondary Educational Programs, (4) Workplace Readiness Training, and (5) Self-Advocacy.

Who can participate? One or more Pre-Employment Transition Services can be provided to students with disabilities who have been determined eligible or are potentially eligible for VR services, are interested in employment and who have an identified need for Pre-Employment Transition Services. A student with a disability is an individual who is in a recognized education program, is at least 14 years of age but not yet 21, and is eligible for and receiving special education or related services under IDEA or is an individual with a disability for purposes of Section 504 of the Rehab Act.

When and where do Pre-Employment Transition Services take place? ORS works in collaboration with schools and other community partners to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services. These services may be provided individually or in groups. They may take place during or after school hours or in the summer depending on the activity, duration, availability of the student and coordination with partners.

Which students need a “Registration for Pre-Employment Transition Services” form completed? School staff will complete the referral process for a student with a disability who is potentially eligible for VR services and has a need for Pre-Employment Transition Services. The VR Counselor will meet with the student and discuss service options. The “Registration for Pre-ETS services is not necessary for students who have been determined eligible for VR services and have an open case with ORS.

Why does the “Registration for Pre-Employment Transition Services” need to be completed? This form documents the need for Pre-Employment Transition Services for potentially eligible students and serves as a signed release of information for ORS to authorize for Pre-Employment Transition Services. The registration form must be signed by the individual and if applicable, his/her parent or legal guardian.

When can a potentially eligible student open a VR case? A potentially eligible student may apply for VR services at any time; however, formal application is not required to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services. If a potentially eligible student requires more individualized VR services (e.g. job development, job coaching, transportation for participation in services) they would need to apply for VR services, be found eligible, and work with an ORS Counselor to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

VR Counselors can help students choose necessary services:

Guidance and Counseling ~ Community Based Work Experiences ~ Information about Careers and Resources
Instruction in Self Advocacy ~ Job Exploration ~ Work Place Readiness Training
Counseling on Opportunities for Post-Secondary Training and Educational Options

When are Pre-ETS services complete? Pre-Employment Transition Services end when the student leaves school. These services are designed to be an early start at job exploration for students with disabilities necessary for movement from school to post-school activities that will maximize their potential to enter competitive integrated employment

Does OOS Waitlist Impact Pre-ETS services? In most instances, Order of Selection will not interfere with a student receiving pre-employment transition services. However, based upon federal guidance, if a student with a disability begins one or more of the required activities prior to being determined eligible for VR services, he or she may continue to receive any and all pre-employment transition services even if the student is assigned to a closed OOS category. However, if the student did not begin any of the pre-ETS activities prior to being assigned to a closed category, the student will not receive any individualized VR services, including pre-employment transition services, until his or her turn for receipt of VR services comes up.

Where can I find additional information about The Office of Rehabilitation and Pre-ETS services? Visit www.ors.ri.gov.

ORS Counselors Covering Regional School Districts

Assistant Administrator – Barbara Mulligan – 462-7821 – Email: Barbara.mulligan@ors.ri.gov

East Bay

BARRINGTON:
Kathleen McCabe, 462-7843
Kathy.mccabe@ors.ri.gov

BRISTOL/WARREN:
Amanda Marcaccio, 462-7853
Amanda.marcaccio@ors.ri.gov

EAST PROVIDENCE:
Sharon Morra, 462-7848
Sharon.morra@ors.ri.gov

LITTLE COMPTON:
Ann Marie Folcarelli, 462-7829
Annmarie.folcarelli@ors.ri.gov

MIDDLETOWN:
Amanda Marcaccio, 462-7853
Amanda.marcaccio@ors.ri.gov

NEWPORT:
Ann Marie Folcarelli, 462-7829
Annmarie.folcarelli@ors.ri.gov

PORTSMOUTH:
Ann Marie Folcarelli, 462-7829
Annmarie.folcarelli@ors.ri.gov

TIVERTON:
Ann Marie Folcarelli, 462-7829
Annmarie.folcarelli@ors.ri.gov

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PROVIDENCE:
Valerie Williams, 462-7875
Valerie.williams@ors.ri.gov

Teresa DiMattia, 462-7900
Teresa.dimattia@ors.ri.gov

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Students with Visual Impairments Statewide:

Jane Cannata, Supervisor,
462-7909
Jane.cannata@ors.ri.gov

Northern RI

BURRILLVILLE:
Shayna Cogswell, 462-7856
Shayna.cogswell@ors.ri.gov

CENTRAL FALLS:
Sandra Perez, 462-7886
Sandra.perez@ors.ri.gov

CUMBERLAND:
Kayleigh McCarthy, 462-7834
Kayleigh.mccarthy@ors.ri.gov

DAVIES CAREER TECH:
Kayleigh McCarthy, 462-7834
Kayleigh.mccarthy@ors.ri.gov

JOHNSTON:
Natalia Montoya, 462-7887
Natalia.montoya@ors.ri.gov

LINCOLN:
Sandra Perez, 462-7886
Sandra.perez@ors.ri.gov

NORTH PROVIDENCE:
Nina Lusignan, 462-7837
Nina.lusignan@ors.ri.gov

NORTH SMITHFIELD:
Shayna Cogswell, 462-7856
Shayna.cogswell@ors.ri.gov

SHEA
Shayna Cogswell, 462-7856
Shayna.cogswell@ors.ri.gov

TOLMAN
Nina Lusignan, 462-7837
Nina.lusignan@ors.ri.gov

SMITHFIELD:
Kayleigh McCarthy, 462-7834
Kayleigh.mccarthy@ors.ri.gov

WOONSOCKET:
Elizabeth Champagne, 462-7846
Elizabeth.champagne@ors.ri.gov

Southern RI

BLOCK ISLAND:
Teresa O'Brien, 462-7793
Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

CHARIHO:
Kim Pinksaw, 462-7835
Kim.pinksaw@ors.ri.gov

EAST GREENWICH:
Kathleen Neun, 462-7878
Kathleen.neun@ors.ri.gov

EXETER/W GREENWICH:
Kathleen Neun, 462-7878
Kathleen.neun@ors.ri.gov

JAMESTOWN:
Teresa O'Brien, 462-7793
Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

NARRAGANSETT:
Teresa O'Brien, 462-7793
Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

NORTH KINGSTOWN:
Teresa O'Brien, 462-7793
Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

SOUTH KINGSTOWN:
Teresa O'Brien, 462-7793
Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

WESTERLY:
Kim Pinksaw, 462-7835
Kim.pinksaw@ors.ri.gov

Students with Hearing Loss Statewide:
TDD: 401-421-7016

Karen Davis, Supervisor,
462-7867
Karen.davis@ors.ri.gov

West Bay

CRANSTON:
Laura Allbee, 462-7852
Laura.allbee@ors.ri.gov

COVENTRY:
Carolyn Blessing, 462-7844
Carolyn.blessing@ors.ri.gov

FOSTER/GLOCESTER:
Alicia DiMasi-Peters, 462-7840
Alicia.peters@ors.ri.gov

SCITUATE:
Alicia DiMasi-Peters, 462-7840
Alicia.peters@ors.ri.gov

WARWICK:
Nicole Crossett, 462-7861
Nicole.crossett@ors.ri.gov

WEST WARWICK:
Carolyn Blessing, 462-7844
Carolyn.blessing@ors.ri.gov

Transition Centers

East Bay Regional

Tristan Pennell, Coordinator
401-628-2057(V) 245-9332 (F)
tpennell@nric-ri.org

Northern RI Collaborative

Cynthia VanAvery, Coordinator
401-495-2011
cvanavery@nric-ri.org

Providence Schools and Southern RI Transition Center

Kerri Collins, Coordinator
401-481-5161
kcollins@westbaycollaborative.org

West Bay Collaborative

Therese Curran, Coordinator
401-941-8353 x124
tcurran@westbaycollaborative.org

*Ask your counselor about career exploration and career discovery services available through the Transition Resource Centers.