



Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services



Career Planning for Students with Disabilities

“To empower individuals with disabilities to choose, prepare for, obtain and maintain employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence and integration into society”

The **Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS)** is the state agency that assists eligible individuals with disabilities to prepare for and obtain employment. An ORS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor assists students, their families and school in planning the transition from school to employment. A VR Counselor has specialized knowledge of the impact of disability on employment, current employment trends, and community resources.

VR Counselors assist students and their families in making informed choices by:

- Providing career information
- Assisting in choosing an employment goal, services, and training that are necessary to obtain employment
- Assisting in developing an **Individualized Plan for Employment [IPE]**, and
- Providing information about other programs and services to help make a successful transition to adult life
- Explaining ORS eligibility and Order of Selection in order to determine best path to services

VR Counselors can help eligible individuals choose necessary services, including:

- Guidance & Counseling
- Information about Careers and Resources
- Supported Employment Services
- Vocational Assessment
- Rehabilitation Technology
- On-the-Job Training
- Work-Based Learning Experiences
- Work Place Readiness Training
- Financial Assistance for Training after High School
- Post-Secondary Training and Educational Options
- Job Exploration
- Community-Based Work Experiences
- Assistance in finding and keeping a job
- Benefits Information

To benefit from ORS Employment Services:

- Apply for ORS services early enough to make a good transition plan (two years before your graduation).
- Share information, preferences, ideas and questions with your ORS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

To learn more about ORS or to apply:

- Contact ORS directly to set up a meeting with the ORS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor who visits your school (see other side). **A parent or guardian will need to attend if the student is under 18 years old.**
- Visit the ORS website at <http://www.ors.ri.gov> for more information about ORS services and Orientations throughout the state.

Any services provided will help determine career goals.

ORS Counselors Covering Regional School Districts

Call ORS (see numbers below)

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

East Bay

BARRINGTON:
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Ann Marie Folcarelli, 462-7829
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TIVERTON:
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PROVIDENCE:
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Teresa DiMattia, 462-7900
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Students with Visual Impairments Statewide:

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Northern RI

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CENTRAL FALLS:
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Southern RI

BLOCK ISLAND:
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CHARIHO:
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Students with Hearing Loss Statewide:

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Transition Centers

East Bay Transition Center
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Providence and Southern RI Transition Center
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West Bay Transition Center
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*Ask your counselor about career exploration and career discovery services available through the Transition Resource Centers.