



Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
Career Planning for Students with Disabilities

“Helping individuals with disabilities to choose, find and keep employment”

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

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

- Guidance & Counseling
- Information about Careers and Resources
- Supported Employment Services
- Vocational Assessment & Community Job Trials
- Skills Training
- On-the-Job Training
- Work Preparation
- Financial Assistance for Post Secondary Education (based on family financial need and application for federal financial aid)
- Rehabilitation Technology
- Assistance in finding and keeping a job

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.

For more information, contact ORS today!

ORS Counselors Covering Regional School Districts
Call ORS at 401.421.7005 (see extensions below)



East Bay

BARRINGTON:
Kathleen McCabe, Ext. 343

BRISTOL/WARREN:
Meredith Wright, Ext. 390

EAST PROVIDENCE:
Sharon Morra, Ext. 348

LITTLE COMPTON:
Mike Montanaro, Ext. 376

MIDDLETOWN:
Sharon Morra, Ext. 348

NEWPORT:
Danielle Williams, Ext. 351

PORTSMOUTH:
Danielle Williams, Ext. 351

TIVERTON:
Wheeler Clemons, Ext. 353

Transition Resource Center*
East Bay Educational
Collaborative (EBEC)
401.245.2045
Transition Coordinator,
Carolyn Aspinwall

PROVIDENCE:
Valerie Williams, Ext. 375

PROJECT WORK*
401.456.9230
Coordinator,
Charlean Borders

Transition Resource Center*
Providence School District
401.456.9230
Transition Coordinator,
Nancy Stevenin

Northern RI

BURRILLVILLE:
Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

CENTRAL FALLS:
Kathleen Granken, Ext. 356

CUMBERLAND:
Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

DAVIES CAREER TECH:
Joseph Murphy, Ext. 322

JOHNSTON:
Teresa Scaramuzzo-DiMattia,
Ext. 340

LINCOLN:
Dorian Havers, Ext. 342

NORTH PROVIDENCE:
Elizabeth Champagne, Ext. 346

NORTH SMITHFIELD:
Elizabeth Champagne, Ext. 346

PAWTUCKET:
Kathleen Granken, Ext. 356

SMITHFIELD:
Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

WOONSOCKET:
Elizabeth Champagne, Ext. 346

Transition Resource Center*
Northern RI Collaborative
401.658.5790
Transition Coordinator,
Jane Slade

Transition Coordinator
Kathleen Grygiel, Ext. 373

Southern RI

BLOCK ISLAND:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 361

CHARIHO:
Teresa O'Brien, Ext. 335

EAST GREENWICH:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 361

EXETER/W GREENWICH:
Michael Lombardi, Ext. 344

JAMESTOWN:
Karen Davis, Ext. 367

NARRAGANSETT:
Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

NORTH KINGSTOWN:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 361

SOUTH KINGSTOWN:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 361

WESTERLY:
Teresa O'Brien, Ext. 335

Transition Resource Center*
Southern RI Collaborative
(SORICO)
401.295.2888
Transition Coordinator,
Joe Walejko



West Bay

CRANSTON:
Aaron Whiting, Ext. 352

COVENTRY:
Michael Lombardi, Ext. 344

FOSTER/GLOCESTER:
Teresa Scaramuzzo-DiMattia,
Ext. 340

SCITUATE:
Teresa Scaramuzzo-DiMattia,
Ext. 340

WARWICK:
Patty Ianiere, Ext. 347

WEST WARWICK:
Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

Transition Resource Center*
West Bay Collaborative
401.941.8353
Transition Coordinator,
Theresa Curran

**Students with Visual
Impairments Statewide:**

Melanie Sbardella, Supervisor,
Ext. 444

**Vocational Rehabilitation
Counselors II**
Jane Cannata Ext. 431

**Students with Hearing
Loss Statewide:**

Karen Davis, Supervisor,
Ext. 367
Paula Berard, Ext. 385
TDD: 401.421.7016

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