



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:
 Dale Williams, Ext. 351

EAST PROVIDENCE:
 Tony Bagaglia, Ext. 374

LITTLE COMPTON:
 Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 353

MIDDLETOWN:
 Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 353

NEWPORT:
 Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 353

PORTSMOUTH:
 Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 353

TIVERTON:
 Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 353

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

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Northern RI

BURRILLVILLE:
 Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

CENTRAL FALLS:
 Kathleen Granken, Ext. 356

CUMBERLAND:
 Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

DAVIES CAREER TECH:
 Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

JOHNSTON:
 Teresa Scaramuzzo-DiMattia,
 Ext. 340

LINCOLN:
 Jeannine Dionne, Ext. 322

NORTH PROVIDENCE:
 Jeannine Dionne, Ext. 322

NORTH SMITHFIELD:
 Jeannine Dionne, Ext. 322

PAWTUCKET:
 Kathleen Granken, Ext. 356

SMITHFIELD:
 Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

WOONSOCKET:
 Jeannine Dionne, Ext. 322

Transition Resource Center*
 Northern RI Collaborative
 401.658.5790
 Transition Coordinator,
 Maura Silva



Southern RI

BLOCK ISLAND:
 Melanie Sbardella, Ext. 338

CHARIHO:
 Sharon Morra, Ext. 335

EAST GREENWICH:
 Melanie Sbardella, Ext. 338

EXETER/W GREENWICH:
 Melanie Sbardella, Ext. 338

JAMESTOWN:
 Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

NARRAGANSETT:
 Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

NORTH KINGSTOWN:
 Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

SOUTH KINGSTOWN:
 Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

WESTERLY:
 Sharon Morra, Ext. 335

Transition Resource Center*
 Southern RI Collaborative
 (SORICO)
 401.295.2888
 Transition Coordinator,
 Alice Woods

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**Students with
 Hearing
 Impairments
 Statewide:**

Jessica Tunison Ext. 385
 TDD: 401.421.7016

West Bay

CRANSTON:
 Valerie Williams, Ext. 352

COVENTRY:
 Karen Davis, Ext.344

FOSTER/GLOCESTER:
 Jeannine Dionne, Ext. 322

SCITUATE:
 Jeannine Dionne, Ext. 322

WARWICK:
 Ginny Perelson, Ext. 346

WEST WARWICK:
 Karen Davis, Ext. 344

Transition Resource Center*
 West Bay Collaborative
 401.941.8353
 Transition Coordinator,
 Rosemary Lavigne

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PROVIDENCE:
 Joe Murphy, Ext. 323

PROJECT WORK*
 401.456.9230
 Coordinator,
 Nancy Stevenin

* * *

Transition Resource Center*
 Providence School District
 401.456.9230
 Transition Coordinator,
 Charlean Borders

**Students with Visual
 Impairments
 Statewide:**

Jane Cannata Ext. 431
 Missy Koch Ext. 420
 Gerry Shapiro Ext. 416

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

