



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.

VR Funded Vocational Assessments

Your Vocational Counselor will discuss with you the potential of a vocational evaluation. This will allow you to explore career options. Your Counselor can also help you decide where your evaluation will take place. The vocational evaluation may require you to leave school for up to 20 hours. Your parents and school will need to give permission for you to participate.

Following the evaluation a meeting will be scheduled with you, your parents/guardians, school personnel, the evaluation team, and the ORS Counselor to discuss the results. The evaluation will add to your transition plan in high school and provide information to help you develop your career goals as you move towards graduation.





For more information, contact ORS today!

ORS Counselors Covering Regional School Districts

Call ORS at 401.421.7005 (see extensions below)

Transition Supervisor – JoAnn Nannig – x350 – Email: joannn@ors.ri.gov



East Bay

BARRINGTON:
Kathleen McCabe, Ext. 343
katem@ors.ri.gov

BRISTOL/WARREN:
Meredith Wright, Ext. 390
mwright@ors.ri.gov

EAST PROVIDENCE:
Sharon Morra, Ext. 348
stmorra@ors.ri.gov

LITTLE COMPTON:
Mike Montanaro, Ext. 376
michaelm@ors.ri.gov

MIDDLETOWN:
Meredith Wright, Ext. 390
mwright@ors.ri.gov

NEWPORT:
Mike Montanaro, Ext. 376
michaelm@ors.ri.gov

PORTSMOUTH:
AnnMarie Folcarelli, Ext. 329
afolcarelli@ors.ri.gov

TIVERTON:
Wheeler Clemons, Ext. 353
tclemons@ors.ri.gov

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PROVIDENCE:
Valerie Williams, Ext. 375
vwilliams@ors.ri.gov

Teresa DiMattia, Ext. 418
teresasd@ors.ri.gov

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Students with Visual Impairments Statewide:

Melanie Sbardella, Supervisor,
Ext. 444
Msbardella@ors.ri.gov

Northern RI

BURRILLVILLE:
Michael Lombardi, Ext. 349
malombardi@ors.ri.gov

CENTRAL FALLS:
Kathleen Granken, Ext. 356
kgranken@ors.ri.gov

CUMBERLAND:
Kayleigh McCarthy, Ext. 334
kmccarthy@ors.ri.gov

DAVIES CAREER TECH:
Jeff Milete, Ext. 451
jmilete@ors.ri.gov

JOHNSTON:
Alicia DiMasi, Ext. 340
adimasi@ors.ri.gov

LINCOLN:
Dorian Havers, Ext. 342
dhavers@ors.ri.gov

NORTH PROVIDENCE:
Elizabeth Champagne, Ext. 346
echampagne@ors.ri.gov

NORTH SMITHFIELD:
Elizabeth Champagne, Ext. 346
echampagne@ors.ri.gov

PAWTUCKET:
Kathleen Granken, Ext. 356
kgranken@ors.ri.gov

SHEA
Dorian Havers, Ext. 342
dhavers@ors.ri.gov

SMITHFIELD:
Kayleigh McCarthy, Ext. 334
kmccarthy@ors.ri.gov

TOLMAN
John Valentine, Ext. 360
jvalentine@ors.ri.gov

WOONSOCKET:
Elizabeth Champagne, Ext. 346
echampagne@ors.ri.gov

Southern RI

BLOCK ISLAND:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 361
cbanerjee@ors.ri.gov

CHARIHO:
Teresa O'Brien, Ext. 335
tobrien@ors.ri.gov

EAST GREENWICH:
Kathleen Neun, Ext. 378
kneun@ors.ri.gov

EXETER/W GREENWICH:
Kathleen Neun, Ext. 378
kneun@ors.ri.gov

JAMESTOWN:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 361
cbanerjee@ors.ri.gov

NARRAGANSETT:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 361
cbanerjee@ors.ri.gov

NORTH KINGSTOWN:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 361
cbanerjee@ors.ri.gov

SOUTH KINGSTOWN:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 361
cbanerjee@ors.ri.gov

WESTERLY:
Teresa O'Brien, Ext. 335
tobrien@ors.ri.gov

Students with Hearing Loss Statewide:
TDD: 401.421.7016

Karen Davis, Supervisor,
Ext. 367
kdavis@ors.ri.gov

Paula Berard, Ext. 385
pberard@ors.ri.gov

West Bay

CRANSTON:
Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 368
jfiske@ors.ri.gov

COVENTRY:
Carolyn Blessing, Ext. 344
cblessing@ors.ri.gov

FOSTER/GLOCESTER:
Alicia DiMasi, Ext. 340
adimasi@ors.ri.gov

SCITUATE:
Alicia DiMasi, Ext. 340
adimasi@ors.ri.gov

WARWICK:
Patty Ianiere, Ext. 347
pianiere@ors.ri.gov

WEST WARWICK:
Carolyn Blessing, Ext. 344
cblessing@ors.ri.gov

Transition Centers

East Bay Educational Collaborative
401.245.2045
Coordinator, Carolyn Aspinwall

Northern RI Collaborative
401.721.0709
Coordinator, Cynthia Vanavery

Providence School District
401.456.9230
Coordinator, Nancy Stevenin

Southern RI Transition Center
401.269.1107
Coordinator, Joe Walejko

West Bay Collaborative
401.941.8353
Coordinator, Therese Curran

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