

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”*

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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:*

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

*To benefit from ORS Employment Services:*

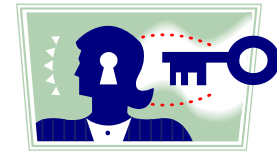
- Apply for ORS services early enough to make a good transition plan (two years before your graduation).
- Share information, preferences, ideas and questions with your ORS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

*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:  
 Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 368

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:  
 Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 368

SCITUATE:  
 Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 368

WARWICK:  
 Patty Ianiere, Ext. 347

WEST WARWICK:  
 Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

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

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**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.**