



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 (see numbers below)

Assistant Administrator – JoAnn Nannig – 462-7850 – Email: joann.nannig@ors.ri.gov

East Bay

BARRINGTON:
 Kathleen McCabe, 462-7843
 Kathy.mccabe@ors.ri.gov

BRISTOL/WARREN:
 Amanda Marcaccio, 462-7853
 Amanda.marcaccio@ors.ri.gov

EAST PROVIDENCE:
 Sharon Morra, 462-7848
 Sharon.morra@ors.ri.gov

LITTLE COMPTON:
 Ann Marie Folcarelli, 462-7829
 Annmarie.folcarelli@ors.ri.gov

MIDDLETOWN:
 Amanda Marcaccio, 462-7853
 Amanda.marcaccio@ors.ri.gov

NEWPORT:
 Ann Marie Folcarelli, 462-7829
 Annmarie.folcarelli@ors.ri.gov

PORTSMOUTH:
 Ann Marie Folcarelli, 462-7829
 Annmarie.folcarelli@ors.ri.gov

TIVERTON:
 Ann Marie Folcarelli, 462-7829
 Annmarie.folcarelli@ors.ri.gov

PROVIDENCE:
 Valerie Williams, 462-7875
 Valerie.williams@ors.ri.gov

Teresa DiMattia, 462-7900
 Teresa.dimattia@ors.ri.gov

Students with Visual Impairments Statewide:

Jane Cannata, Supervisor,
 462-7909
 Jane.cannata@ors.ri.gov

Northern RI

BURRILLVILLE:
 Shayna Cogswell, 462-7856
 Shayna.cogswell@ors.ri.gov

CENTRAL FALLS:
 Sandra Perez, 462-7886
 Sandra.perez@ors.ri.gov

CUMBERLAND:
 Kayleigh McCarthy, 462-7834
 Kayleigh.mccarthy@ors.ri.gov

DAVIES CAREER TECH:
 Kayleigh McCarthy, 462-7834
 Kayleigh.mccarthy@ors.ri.gov

JOHNSTON:
 Natalia Montoya, 462-7887
 Natalia.montoya@ors.ri.gov

LINCOLN:
 Sandra Perez, 462-7886
 Sandra.perez@ors.ri.gov

NORTH PROVIDENCE:
 Kayleigh McCarthy, 462-7834
 Kayleigh.mccarthy@ors.ri.gov

NORTH SMITHFIELD:
 Nina Lusignan, 462-7837
 Nina.lusignan@ors.ri.gov

SHEA
 Shayna Cogswell, 462-7856
 Shayna.cogswell@ors.ri.gov

TOLMAN
 Shayna Cogswell, 462-7856
 Shayna.cogswell@ors.ri.gov

SMITHFIELD:
 Kayleigh McCarthy, 462-7834
 Kayleigh.mccarthy@ors.ri.gov

WOONSOCKET:
 Elizabeth Champagne, 462-7846
 Elizabeth.champagne@ors.ri.gov

Southern RI

BLOCK ISLAND:
 Teresa O'Brien, 462-7835
 Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

CHARIHO:
 Kim Pinksaw, 462-7835
 Kim.pinksaw@ors.ri.gov

EAST GREENWICH:
 Kathleen Neun, 462-7878
 Kathleen.neun@ors.ri.gov

EXETER/W GREENWICH:
 Kathleen Neun, 462-7878
 Kathleen.neun@ors.ri.gov

JAMESTOWN:
 Teresa O'Brien, 462-7835
 Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

NARRAGANSETT:
 Teresa O'Brien, 462-7835
 Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

NORTH KINGSTOWN:
 Teresa O'Brien, 462-7835
 Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

SOUTH KINGSTOWN:
 Teresa O'Brien, 462-7835
 Teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

WESTERLY:
 Kim Pinksaw, 462-7835
 Kim.pinksaw@ors.ri.gov

Students with Hearing Loss Statewide:
 TDD: 401-421-7016

Karen Davis, Supervisor,
 462-7867
 Karen.davis@ors.ri.gov

West Bay

CRANSTON:
 Jennifer Fiske, 462-7868
 Jennifer.fiske@ors.ri.gov

COVENTRY:
 Carolyn Blessing, 462-7844
 Carolyn.blessing@ors.ri.gov

FOSTER/GLOUCESTER:
 Alicia DiMasi-Peters, 462-7840
 Alicia.peters@ors.ri.gov

SCITUATE:
 Alicia DiMasi-Peters, 462-7840
 Alicia.peters@ors.ri.gov

WARWICK:
 Nicole Crossett, 462-7861
 Nicole.crossett@ors.ri.gov

WEST WARWICK:
 Carolyn Blessing, 462-7844
 Carolyn.blessing@ors.ri.gov

Transition Centers

East Bay Educational Collaborative
 401-628-2057
 Coordinator, Jane Cotter

Northern RI Collaborative
 401-495-2011
 Coordinator, Cynthia VanAvery

Southern RI Transition Center
 401-481-5161
 Coordinator, Kerri Collins

West Bay Collaborative
 401-941-8353 x124
 Coordinator, Therese Curran