

# College: A Rhode Island Guide for Students with Disabilities.

This guide is designed to assist students who receive supports through an Individual Education Program (IEP) or a 504 Plan, to learn about opportunities to pursue post-secondary education. This guide will help you to:

- ❖ Plan and prepare for post-secondary education
- ❖ Identify supports available to aid in accessing post-secondary education, and
- ❖ Find disability related information about Colleges in Rhode Island.

This publication is available for free in PDF format on the Sherlock Center website. You can access by using the instructions below:

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In Transition**”

# COMMUNITY SUPPORTS NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

## Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities



RI College

*Promoting Membership in School, Work and Community*

### What is a Community Supports Navigator?

A Community Supports Navigator provides young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and trusted allies the guidance needed to plan for meaningful, contributing adult lives in their communities after graduation from high school.

The Sherlock Center has developed a team of Community Supports Navigators, trained in the values of self-determination, person-centered planning facilitation, and the processes for accessing natural, community and formal supports including the management of self-directed supports for people with developmental disabilities in RI.

### Who can receive the guidance of a Community Supports Navigator?

- ◆ Young adults, ages 18 – 22 who are (or are likely to be) eligible for supports through the RI Division of Developmental Disabilities and their families.
- ◆ Participation is voluntary.
- ◆ Individuals and/or their families must be willing to spend the time necessary to set goals and develop an action plan for adult life.

#### Referrals can be made by:

- ◆ Individuals or families
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Agencies involved in the transition process

#### For information, or to make a referral, contact the Sherlock Center:

##### By Phone:

(401) 456-8072 Voice  
(401) 456-8773 TDD  
7-1-1 or 1-800-745-5555 RI Relay TTY  
7-1-1 or 1-866-355-9214 RI Relay Spanish

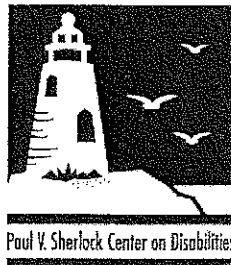
##### By Mail:

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities  
Rhode Island College  
600 Mt. Pleasant Ave.  
Providence, RI 02908

**On the Web:** [www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org)

##### Project Partners:

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network  
PAL, an advocacy organization for families and people with disabilities



### How a Community Supports Navigator can help...

#### *A Community Supports Navigator will:*

- ◆ Work closely with the youth, family and trusted allies to develop a plan for life after high school, based on the young person's strengths, interests and goals.
- ◆ Work with the youth, families and their IEP teams to ensure quality transition programming while still in school.
- ◆ Guide individuals and their teams in identifying opportunities for community employment, recreation and meaningful participation in community life.
- ◆ Guide youth, families and teams in identifying natural, community and formal supports that will help them meet their goals.
- ◆ Guide youth and families through the application process for supports through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS), SSI, Medicaid and other appropriate public supports.
- ◆ Assist youth and families in evaluating and choosing the supports that best match their goals and vision.
- ◆ Assist youth and families in designing and managing self-directed supports when this is their choice.
- ◆ Provide information and resources on such topics as transportation options, alternatives to guardianship, housing options, healthcare, etc.