

RI Department of Human Services  
**Office of Rehabilitation Services**  
**STUDENT FACT SHEET**

*Students who have work experiences during high school are twice as likely to get a job and earn more money after they graduate.*

The Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) is a state agency.

- Assists people with physical, learning, or emotional disabilities to choose employment goals and find employment.
- Helps you to prepare for work
- Works with you until you find and keep a job

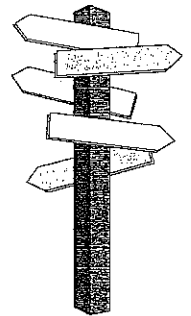


**A “ Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor”**

- Helps you to explore career options
- Has information about job choices
- Helps you choose a career goal
- Can help you get work experiences
- Knows about disabilities and how they effect work
- Helps you to learn how to be a good job applicant
- Helps you figure out what you need to get or keep a job
- Works for the Office of Rehabilitation Services

**What are the steps? How do I find out more?**

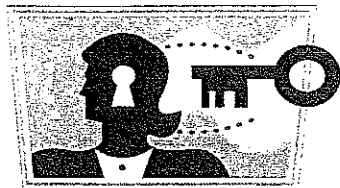
- 1) Talk to an ORS Counselor, attend an **Orientation** or visit [www.ors.ri.gov](http://www.ors.ri.gov)
- 2) Decide if you are interested and Fill out an **Application** (you need parent’s signature if you are under 18)
- 3) **Eligibility:** The ORS Counselor will tell you if you are eligible  
(Your disability has to affect your ability to get and/or keep a job)
- 4) **Work with your school and ORS counselor to :**
  - Find out what you are interested in for work
  - Find out what it takes to be hired for that kind of work
  - Find out how you learn best and if you need job supports
- 5) **Write an Employment Plan** or “Individualized Plan for Employment”
  - Choose your work goal
  - Identify the steps you need to take to reach your work goal
  - Choose the services you will need to work successfully
  - Decide who will help you with each step in your path to employment



**Ask your ORS counselor more about these services**

- Guidance & Career Counseling
- Information About Careers & Resources
- Vocational Assessment & community Job Trials
- Work Preparation & Job Placement Services
- Vocational Training Or Skill Training
- On-The-Job Training
- Financial Assistance For Post Secondary Education (based on family financial need and application for federal financial aid)
- Rehabilitation Technology
- Supported Employment Services
- Referrals To Community Resources
- Assistance in finding and keeping a job

**Work = Success**



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:*

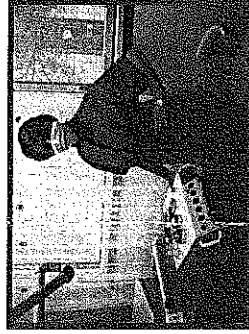
- Contact ORS directly to set up a meeting with the ORS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor who visits your school (see other side). **A parent or guardian will need to attend if the student is under 18 years old.**
- Visit the ORS website at <http://www.ors.ri.gov> for more information about ORS services and Orientations throughout the state.

*For more information, contact ORS today!*



# Comprehensive VR Services Offered

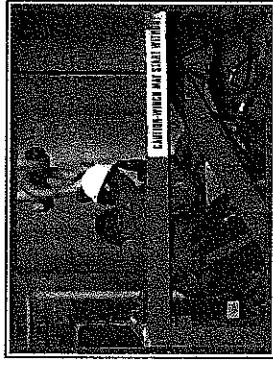
- Vocational guidance & counseling
- Vocational assessments
- Vocational evaluations
- Job development
- Job retention
- Training for employment
- Rehabilitation evaluations
- Post employment services
- School to transition services
- Assistive technology
- Paid on-the-job training
- Work-site assessment



# Who Is Eligible?

You are eligible for services if:

- ◆ you have a disability - a physical or emotional impairment that results in a barrier to employment;
- ◆ you are able to benefit in terms of an employment outcome from VR services;
- ◆ and you need vocational rehabilitation services to become employed, retain employment, or regain employment.



# How To Receive an Application And Apply...

- ◆ Attend a group orientation.
- ◆ Call VR intake at (401) 421-7005 or (401) 421-7016 (TDD) for more information and an orientation schedule.
- ◆ Apply by requesting vocational rehabilitation services in writing.
- ◆ Visit a netWORKri One-Stop Career Center and ask to see an ORS Counselor.
- ◆ Visit [www.ors.ri.gov/copied/ApplicationORS.pdf](http://www.ors.ri.gov/copied/ApplicationORS.pdf) for an online application.

Realizing Your Dream  
**Success is Employment!**