



**State of Rhode Island
Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services**

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"Helping individuals with disabilities to choose, find and keep employment"

*** Getting Ready for High School: What Families Should Know About Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)**

As your student moves from middle school to high school, it's never too early to start thinking about their future goals whether it's college, training, or a job they'll love! That's where Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) come in.

💡 What Is Pre-ETS?

Pre-ETS help students with disabilities explore careers, learn job skills, and plan for life after high school — while they're still in school! It's offered through The Office of Rehabilitation Services and is free to eligible students.

👥 Who Can Participate?

Students with disabilities, ages 14–22, who have an IEP or 504 Plan, can participate even if they haven't yet applied for full VR services. ORS's earliest service takes place in The Middle School. ORS partners with vendor agencies to provide Career Compass, which helps students build self-awareness, strengthen self-advocacy skills, explore in-demand industries and occupations, and identify career pathways aligned with their interests.

🌟 What Does Pre-ETS Offer?

Students can get support in five important areas:

1. Job Exploration – learning about different types of jobs and careers.
2. Work-Based Learning – trying out real work experiences through internships, volunteering, or part-time jobs.
3. Education & Training Counseling – exploring college, training, or career education options.
4. Workplace Readiness Skills – practicing communication, teamwork, time management, and professionalism.
5. Self-Advocacy – learning to speak up for their goals, needs, and dreams.

📌 How It Connects to the Transition IEP

When your student starts developing their transition IEP in high school:

- Pre-ETS activities can help them discover what they enjoy and what they're good at.
- VR counselors can work with the IEP team to align Pre-ETS experiences with transition goals.
- Families can use what they learn from Pre-ETS to help guide career, course, and training decisions.

🔑 Why Start Now?

Starting early helps your student:

- Build confidence and independence
- Explore real career interests
- Learn about supports and opportunities for success after high school

🗨️ Want to Learn More?

Every school district has an assigned Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Reach out and ask how to connect your student with Pre-ETS opportunities!