

Lexington Minuteman

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SMARTS

Grant supports ResearchILD program

Lexington-based Research Institute for Learning & Development (ResearchILD) has been awarded a grant from the Oak Foundation. The grant will be used to support the expansion of ResearchILD's SMARTS Leadership & Mentoring Program so that SMARTS can be implemented in multiple schools nationwide. Funds awarded total \$120,000 for fiscal year 2010.

SMARTS has been implemented recently at New Mission High School in Roxbury, where students with

learning and attention difficulties comprise more than 40 percent of the student body. The program is a unique peer mentoring and leadership program that addresses the critical need to help struggling learners to become confident, self-directed, and motivated students. SMARTS creates a supportive, proactive community where students begin to understand their learning styles, learn how to learn, and incorporate strategies to help them in school and in life.

"The grant is a testament to the potential of SMARTS to transform the lives of students in urban schools," said Dr. Lynn Meltzer, executive director of ResearchILD. "In schools where SMARTS has already been implemented, we have empowered learners and given them the tools they need to succeed in school and in life. This award will allow us to expand our mission and take SMARTS to other platforms where we will be able to reach countless others."