

# Lexington Minuteman

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## LEARNING

RESEARCHILD

### Nonprofit receives grant for student mentoring program

ResearchILD, a Lexington-based nonprofit education and research organization that provides programs to assist students who struggle with learning and attention difficulties, was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000 by Verizon of Wakefield to support the SMARTS Boston afterschool program.

The SMARTS program connects student mentors with younger mentees — students at risk of dropping out of school due to environmental, psychological and learning difficulties.

"We are grateful to Verizon for recognizing a challenge by helping to fund a solution to a problem that many see as epidemic," said Lynn Meltzer,

president of ResearchILD. "One in 10 children struggles with learning difficulties and one in eight children struggles with attention difficulties."

"SMARTS is an action-oriented leadership and mentoring program that empowers students to develop their own path to academic and life success by encouraging them to develop persistence and resilience in light of social and school-related pressure," Meltzer said. "SMARTS specifically address the critical need to serve struggling learners in inner-city schools."

For more information on ResearchILD, visit researchild.org or call Executive Director Mimi Ballard at 781-861-3711.

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DEADLINE for submitted content is Monday at 9 a.m. for the same week's edition.



Stan Usovics, regional director at Verizon of Wakefield, presents Lynn Meltzer, center, president and founder of ResearchILD in Lexington, and staff members with a grant to support the organization's SMARTS Mentoring and Leadership Program for inner-city schools. COURTESY/PHOTO