

Mentors changing lives in Lexington and beyond

Foundations and companies are continuing to support and encourage mentoring, leadership, and after-school programs throughout the greater Boston area.

In Lexington, the SMARTS Leadership and Mentoring program, run by the nonprofit Research Institute for Learning and Development (ResearchILD), is being supported by JPMorganChase, Bain Capital, Verizon, and other companies.

SMARTS (Success, Motivation, Awareness, Resilience, Talents, and Strategies) connects student mentors with student mentees who have all struggled with learning and attention difficulties.

Lynn Meltzer, President of ResearchILD, sums up the support the program provides: "Our mission is to transform the lives of students with learning and attention difficulties by helping each learner find his/hier own pathway to success."



Courtesy photo

SMARTS connects mentors with mentees in Lexington and surrounding towns.

SMARTS has also been successfully implemented in the Boston schools as an after-school program that provides leadership and learning opportunities for inner-city students at New Mission High School in Roxbury.

At New Mission High, a pilot school of 265 students, those with learning and attention dif-

ficulties comprise more than 40 percent of the student body, emphasizing the need for effective learning strategies and support.

With additional funding, ResearchILD hopes to broaden its impact on students' lives by creating SMARTS online, an interactive community of students and young adults with learning and attention differences.