



Grant Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2009

Contact:
Barbara Walker
972-718-2979
Barbara.walker@verizon.com

Grant from Verizon Supports Keller ISD Education Foundation

\$8,500 Grant to Benefit Students with Dyslexia

IRVING, Texas – Verizon Foundation has awarded an \$8,500 grant to The Keller ISD Education Foundation in Keller, Texas to fund in-depth dyslexia training for staff and parents. The Verizon grant will provide for five full-day training sessions for classroom teachers to meet the needs of the dyslexic learner in the classroom setting; as well as two community simulation trainings for parents of students with dyslexia.

Dyslexia is a learning disorder that affects one's ability to read and spell. Although dyslexia is thought to be the result of neurological difference, it is not an intellectual disability. Dyslexia is diagnosed in people of all levels of intelligence, including average, above average and highly gifted.

Dyslexia is a larger problem than most people realize, as approximately 5 percent of the population is dyslexic. Keller ISD has currently identified and is serving only about 2 percent of their student population with dyslexia. The Verizon grant will allow Keller ISD to reach the other 3 percent of the dyslexic students who are currently undiagnosed.

"The Keller School district is one of the largest and fastest growing districts in Tarrant County," said Carl Erhart, Verizon Southwest Region President. "This grant from Verizon will fund dyslexia training for teachers that will ensure all students can reach their full potential in the essential curriculum areas associated with reading and writing. Strong literacy is an imperative building block for student success in school and life."

The Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications, supports the advancement of literacy and K-12 education through its free educational Web site, Thinkfinity.org, and fosters awareness and prevention of domestic violence. In 2008, the Verizon Foundation awarded more than \$68 million in grants to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. It also matched the charitable donations of Verizon employees and retirees, resulting in an additional \$26 million in combined contributions to nonprofits. Through Verizon Volunteers, one of the nation's largest employee volunteer programs, Verizon employees and retirees have volunteered more than 3 million hours of community service since 2000. For more information on the foundation, visit www.verizonfoundation.org.