

School Efficiency Profile: James Otis Kaler Elementary School

School Information: 2009-2010	
School Demographics Special Education: 20.75% Free/Reduced-Price Lunch: 52.1% Limited English Proficiency: 5.81%	State Average Demographics, Grades K-5 Special Education: 13.9% Free/Reduced-Price Lunch: 48.72% Limited English Proficiency: 2.15%
School Characteristics	
District/Union: South Portland School Department	Location: South Portland, Maine
Grade Span: K-5	Enrollment: 241

School Efficiency Profiles provide each Maine school and its community with a quick overview of their students' academic performance on the annual statewide assessment and the school's return on spending. For the purposes of this profile, school efficiency is defined by a set of six criteria, four based on student academic performance and two based on the return on spending.

Table 1. James Otis Kaler Elementary School Efficiency Profile

Academic Performance and Return on Spending Criteria		Met Criterion?		
		Yes	No	
Efficiency	Performance	P1. Average school score on statewide assessment compared to state comparison score.		✓
		P2. Average school score on statewide assessment compared to expected score.		✓
		P3. School percent of students that Meet or Exceed standards on statewide assessment compared to state percentage.*		✓
		P4. School percent of students that Partially Meet, Meet, or Exceed standards on statewide assessment compared to state percentage.*		✓
	Return	R1. School's return on spending ratio compared to state ratio.		✓
		R2. School's return on spending ratio compared to expected ratio.		✓

*This study uses the 2008-2009 Maine Department of Education's standards-based proficiency levels: "Does Not Meet," "Partially Meets," "Meets," and "Exceeds."

Parents, teachers, administrators and all Maine citizens want the best for our children. In every school across the state, there is wonderful work happening and a desire to improve. Improvement starts with good information about where we are, which lays the foundation for discussions about where we aim to be. To serve Maine schools, districts and communities in this work, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) at the University of Southern Maine has developed a **School Efficiency Profile**. Schools and their communities are encouraged to use this information as one way of examining the school's performance. The identified efficiency data in this profile is from three years: 2008-2010. Please keep in mind that the data for your school may have changed in more recent years, and your school's comparison level may be different using other measures.

Criteria P1-P4: Academic Performance of James Otis Kaler Elementary School

Academic Performance in Criteria P1-P4 uses student scores from the statewide Maine Education Assessment (MEA) for grade 4. For schools with certain configurations (e.g. 3-5), this may also reflect learning in an earlier school (e.g. K-2).

Criterion P1: The school's average cumulative scale score on the grade 4 MEA is compared to the state comparison score of all students taking the same test.

School Average Grade 4 MEA Score	442.19
State Comparison Grade 4 MEA Score	445.92

Your school does not meet criterion P1.

Criterion P3: The school's cumulative percent of students who Meet or Exceed proficiency on the grade 4 MEA is compared to the state comparison percent.

School Percent Meets or Exceeds	55.16
State Percent Meets or Exceeds	61.91

Your school does not meet criterion P3.

Criterion P2: The school's average cumulative scale score on the grade 4 MEA is compared to what would be expected from your school, in terms of prior performance on statewide assessments and community characteristics.

School Average Grade 4 MEA Score	442.19
Expected Grade 4 MEA Score	444.56

Your school does not meet criterion P2.

Criterion P4: The school's cumulative percent of students who at least Partially Meet proficiency, which includes those who Partially Meet, Meet and Exceed the standard, on the grade 4 MEA is compared to the state comparison percent.

School Percent at least Partially Meets	80.65
State Percent at least Partially Meets	87.95

Your school does not meet criterion P4.

Criteria R1 & R2: Return on Spending of James Otis Kaler Elementary School

The Return on Spending in Criteria R1 and R2 is a simplified cost-benefit ratio that measures the school's percentage of students that Meet or Exceed the standards in relation to operating expenditure per pupil. Before calculating the Return on Spending, per-pupil operating expenditure was adjusted for geographic price differences using the same regional adjustment factors used in Maine's school funding formula. The Return on Spending indicates that for every \$1,000 spent on each student, 7.68 percent of students at your school demonstrated overall proficiency on the academic standards assessed in the grade 4 MEA.

Criterion R1: Average school return on spending is compared to the state return on spending.

School Return on Spending	7.68
State Return on Spending	8.09

Your school does not meet criterion R1.

Criterion R2: Average school return on spending is compared to what would be expected from your school, in terms of prior performance on statewide assessments and community characteristics.

School Return on Spending	7.68
Expected Return on Spending	8.13

Your school does not meet criterion R2.

Schools and communities are encouraged to use this information in examining your school's past, current and future academic performance and efficient use of resources. This School Efficiency Profile presents one measure of efficiency to supplement the materials used in your on-going work to improve the education of Maine's children.