



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
COMMISSIONER

May 15, 2014

Steven J. Swindells, Principal
Canaan Elementary School
178 Main Street
Canaan, ME 04924

Dear Principal Swindells,

On behalf of Governor Paul R. LePage and the entire team at the Maine Department of Education, we want to extend our congratulations to you, your staff and your students for earning an A on your 2014 report card released today under our Maine School Performance Grading System.

The Maine School Performance Grading System was launched one year ago by the Department to help parents and the public understand how our schools are performing. Using a familiar A-F scale, the report cards bring transparency to existing education data and provide the first accountability system in the state's history that includes all schools and all students. While proficiency is the goal, Maine's grading system acknowledges that some students arrive in our schools already behind and equally credits student proficiency and progress.

From your 2014 report card, the public will learn that Canaan Elementary School is one of only 40 elementary schools in Maine that earned an A based on high student proficiency as measured by the State assessment for mathematics and reading. As importantly, they will see Canaan Elementary School is working hard to help students continuously improve, resulting in high levels of student progress on the path toward meeting or exceeding proficiency, including among the school's most struggling students.

We hope your school community takes great pride in its outstanding performance. The enclosed certificates – signed by Governor LePage, Maine DOE Chief Academic Officer Rachelle Tome and myself – are a small recognition of your significant accomplishments.

As we continue to raise expectations for all students in Maine, your school provides an example of the excellence that results when there is a shared commitment to effective, learner-centered instruction; great teachers and leaders; and multiple pathways for learner achievement. Thank you for believing in all of your students and putting in place the supports they need to succeed. We hope you will share your knowledge and experience with other schools across the state so they can learn how Canaan Elementary School inspires kids and their high achievement.

Again, please extend my congratulations to your entire school community for being honored as an A school and for its student growth. We look forward to continuing to support your efforts to put students first and to sharing your incredible story. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Rier, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

James E. Rier, Jr.
Commissioner of Education