

2010

School on the Move Prize

Winner:

Joseph Lee Elementary School

Dorchester

Principal: Kimberly Curtis (2006 – present)

School Improvement Story:

The 350-student Joseph Lee Elementary School combines a high-expectations school culture – for students, teachers and parents – with a commitment to faculty collaboration that has led to a strong sense of teacher ownership and teamwork. With a stable and experienced teaching corps, the Lee transformed the school’s culture and demonstrates a commitment to ensuring success for every child in the school.

Student Profile (2009-10 Data):

- 343 Students in Grades K-5
- Students are 64% Black, 27% Hispanic, 4% Asian, 3% White
- Students with Special Needs: 27% (District Average: 20%) including a large Autism program
- Students with Limited English Skills: 5% (District Average: 20%)
- Students from Economically-Disadvantaged Families: 89% (District Average: 76%)

School Improvement 2005-2009 (all students):

From 2005 to 2009 (the Prize review period), the Lee School’s improvement was **9 times greater in English language arts and 5 times greater in Math than the average improvement of Boston public elementary schools.**

Change in CPI Score (2005-2009)	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math
Lee Elementary	18.9	25.7
District*	2.1	5.1

*Compared to district elementary schools

Evidence of Improvement:

Though performing well below the district average Composite Performance Index in 2005, the Lee Elementary School caught up and **surged past the district in 2007 and continued to improve in both English Language Arts and Math:**

- Students scoring at Proficient or Advanced levels on the 4th grade English Language Arts (ELA) MCAS increased from 11% to 57%.
- Students scoring at Proficient or Advanced levels on the 4th grade Math MCAS increased from 5% to 35%.
- As of 2010, the Lee Elementary has a Composite Performance Index (CPI) of near 90 in ELA and near 80 in math, continuing its trajectory of improvement.
- As of 2010, the Lee Elementary School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in both ELA and math in the aggregate and for all subgroups.

ABOUT THE PRIZE: The *School on the Move Prize*, a \$100,000 citywide award to one of the most-improving Boston Public Schools, is awarded annually by EdVestors, a nonprofit organization that drives change in urban schools through smart, strategic private investment. The Prize highlights the achievements of schools that are making significant progress toward closing the achievement gaps for all students. Following a rigorous quantitative and qualitative review process, the 2010 Prize was awarded at EdVestors 5th Annual *School on the Move Prize Presentation on November 3, 2010*. Previous *School on the Move* Prize winners include the Sarah Greenwood K-8 School in Dorchester (2006), Excel High School in South Boston (2007), the Samuel W. Mason Elementary School in Roxbury (2008), and Boston Community Leadership Academy in Brighton (2009).