

Agency: Department of Education and Early Development**Project Title:****Project Type:** New Construction and Land Acquisition

Mount Edgecumbe High School Aquatic Center

State Funding Requested: \$5,000,000**House District:** Statewide (1-40)

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Funding for construction of a pool and aquatic recreation center at Mount Edgecumbe High School in Sitka.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$35,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$20,000,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$5,000,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$10,000,000

*Funding Details:**FY2011: \$20,000,000 in state funding for design and construction of the aquatic recreation center.**Additional funding is sought to complete the construction process.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

State funding is requested for construction of an aquatic recreation center at Mount Edgecumbe High School, a state-run boarding school, in Sitka. Additional funding is needed to complete construction of the pool. An aquatic facility at the high school would benefit the students, who come from all over the state, Sitka-based state and federal agencies, and the community as a whole.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School was founded in 1947. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development administers the school as a public boarding school. Around 400 students attend the school from over 100 communities around the state. Many of the students are Alaska Native and hail from small villages, where pool access is not available.

The school has a stellar reputation for training young leaders in the state. Students are well-supported emotionally and academically as they make the transition to living far from their homes and culture. Students thrive in a learning environment that fosters extra-curricular participation, academic excellence, and cultural awareness.

In recent years, the pool at Sheldon Jackson College was shut down, leaving Sitka with one pool at Blatchley Middle School. The Middle School is on a separate island from where Mt. Edgecumbe High School is located, making its use by students difficult. While living in Sitka, an island community, Mt. Edgecumbe students have the opportunity to participate in maritime activities such as kayaking and boating, many of them for the first time. Knowing how to swim and having basic aquatic rescue skills is an integral part of living in a coastal community like Sitka, and a pool would allow Mt. Edgecumbe students to become more familiar with water safety and swimming. Students would take these skills back with them to their communities after they graduate, enhancing water safety around the state.

In addition to use by Mt. Edgecumbe students, the pool will be made available for Sitka residents and state and federal

agencies. Sitka is home to the Alaska Public Safety Academy, a U.S. Coast Guard base, and the South East Alaska Regional Health Consortium Hospital.

Construction of an aquatic facility at the Mt. Edgecumbe High School campus will have statewide public safety benefits and improve the quality of life for all Sitka residents.

Project Timeline:

FY13-14

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Department of Education & Early Development

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No