

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

HCS for Senate Bill 146 (FIN), REAA Fund: Mt Edgecumbe

Work Order 34-LS0717I

March 26, 2026

Senate Bill 146 equalizes construction and maintenance funding opportunities for Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS).

SB 146 expands the eligibility list for grants from the Regional Education Attendance Area and Small Municipal School District (REAA) School Fund to add MEHS projects. The REAA Fund was created in 2010, in response to an Alaska Court ruling (*Kasayulie v. State of Alaska*, 2001) which held the state’s school construction funding process was unconstitutional. While urban districts enjoyed reimbursement of school construction bonds, resources for rural schools were found to be “arbitrary, inadequate and racially discriminatory.”

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) is a state-owned residential school located in Sitka, Alaska. Over 400 students from more than 100 communities across Alaska attend MEHS. MEHS school officials cannot submit requests to be placed on the major maintenance list as all other school districts can. Under current law, MEHS relies on the Executive Branch to put forward any such request, and even then, those requests compete with the State of Alaska’s entire deferred maintenance backlog. It is the intent of SB 146 to place MEHS on an equal footing with the other schools in Alaska.

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