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**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2016 9:10 AM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Berta Gardner; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Dennis Egan; governor@alaska.gov; lt.governor@alaska.gov  
**Cc:** Armando DeAsis; Antonio DeAsis; Josh DeAsis; Patrice DeAsis; Bernie Gurule; Andrew Friske; Bill Hutton  
**Subject:** Mt Edgecumbe high school an ANSEP STEM school?  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Mt Edgecumbe high school an ANSEP STEM school?

I understand there is a proposal to "save \$5 million" by making Mt Edgecumbe high school a division of ANSEP?

All four of my children have attended Mt Edgecumbe high school. Three of them have participated in ANSEP in one way or another (the 4th one has applied to participate this summer).

Let me start by saying I whole heartedly support BOTH these programs. They both serve our highest risk kids and achieve results that can not be disputed or duplicated.

For this reason, I am against replacing or overlaying one over the other.

I do think this is an interesting idea though and worthy of some discussion and research.

A couple years ago, Mt Edgecumbe requested capital improvement funds to expand/improve buildings to increase enrollment.

With the requested improvements, it may be possible that an ANSEP program could be an additional option for Mt Edgecumbe students. Since the UAS campus is located in the same proximity, this could be an opportunity to expand services and split costs there as well.

I hope things will be studied closely before we do anything like less years in high school or dual credits, as many colleges are not recognizing credits earned in dual credit programs as college credits. Most colleges also have 2 years of foreign language and arts requirements.

What are we trying to accomplish? Will the kids in this program become "stuck" without the necessary credentials for out of state colleges? All 3 of our in-state colleges have graduation rates of 15% or less. I don't think we can dismiss the fact that our kids must be prepared to attend school out of state.

As far as graduating early - I don't know about that either. Not a single high school had acceptable scores on the last round of state standardized testing. This is consistent with how our kids are faring on the ACT & SAT tests as well.

If we must have a high school that is exclusively a STEM school, perhaps it would be best to target the new boarding school for this endeavor rather than disrupting a school with the proven results of Mt. Edgecumbe.

Mt. Edgecumbe and ANSEP serve many of the same students, but not ALL of the same students. While Mt. Edgecumbe is very strong in math and the sciences, they also have many programs, classes and activities that have nothing to do with math & science.

ANSEP has tough admission standards - students must pass a college algebra test to be admitted. While this is great for some, we would lose so many who are currently thriving at Mt Edgecumbe.

I do not believe combining these programs would net savings any time soon. Curriculum would have to be developed, teachers trained, many students would leave and some new ones would come. It will take several years before "the dust settles" and we realize any actual savings. That is, if we EVER do. What will be the cost of the ones who didn't make the cut or weren't interested in STEM?

Mt Edgecumbe has the highest graduation and retention rate of any high school in the state. They also have the highest percentage of low income and high risk students.

ANSEP is an amazing program for a select group of students.

Please! BOTH of these programs are invaluable and are producing undisputed results with a critical group of students. They need to remain individual programs and they need your full support. We need changes and accountability in our education system, but we do not need to be making cuts solely on the premise of saving money.

Lorraine DeAsis  
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**From:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 23, 2016 7:11 PM  
**To:** Ken Truitt; Janet Ogan  
**Subject:** FW: Mt. Edgecumbe - Science School Swap

FYI\*j Mt. Edgecumbe

**From:** Anthony C. Lekanof [mailto:[anthony\\_lekanof@live.com](mailto:anthony_lekanof@live.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016 7:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Bryce Edgmon <[Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>  
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**Subject:** Mt. Edgecumbe - Science School Swap

Good Day Gentleman,

I am a constituent originally from, St. George Island in the Pribilofs, and I am writing about the current controversy of making Mt. Edgecumbe a science and engineering specific school.

The Alaska Science and Engineering Program without a doubt is a one of a kind program that offers a wide variety of educational and career opportunities for many young Alaskans. Its teachings have put many of my friends and colleagues through the program with nothing but a five star reviews; however, Director of the program's very own, Herb Shroeder's idea in making MEHS into a Science and Engineering high school is receiving not-so-great talk amongst my peers. His idea in moving Mt. Edgecumbe students through a three-year program sounds promising, but is missing the core values of what MEHS is, and what the school stands for.

With rumors escalating, it's been said that the bill for this action was filed yesterday and raises great concern among the Mt. Edgecumbe community. This idea sound great without a doubt, but I don't think MEHS is the place to implement the university's agenda. I am proud to say I graduated from the best high school in the State of Alaska, and would never trade my diploma for anything.

I am strongly opposed to the issue, and would be willing to testify in committee if it were to reach that level. I thank you both for your service to our district, and to the great State of Alaska.

Anthony C. Lekanof

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“The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.”

-Walter Bagehot