


# MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Education & Early Development  
Mount Edgecumbe High School

To: Heidi Teshner  
Director of Finance & Support  
Services  
Alaska Dept. of Education &  
Early Development

Date: August 18, 2020

From: Stan Johnson   
Building Maintenance  
Superintendent  
DOT&PF-DFS

Subject: FY2022 MEHS Academic  
Expansion Budget Request

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This memorandum is provided for use to ascertain the approximate funding required to expand the student body size of the school as well as renovate existing residential and academic spaces to comply with current residential building codes and to improve the health and welfare of the students.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School was initially opened by the state to accept approximately 120 students. A new academic building was constructed in 1990-1991 and the student body was enlarged as facilities were remodeled to accommodate additional bed space. During the early 2000's temporary classroom space was created in buildings 299, 295 and 290 to accommodate a larger student body. These buildings are located on the upper campus and can be as far as a ¼ mile walk from the main academic building. Students often make this trek during less than desirable weather conditions. Every year the school exceeds DHSS standards for residential living space in order to house as many students as practical due to dormitory space restrictions.

The list below includes a list of capital and deferred maintenance projects necessary to relocate all classroom space to the lower campus and expand dormitory space to relieve overcrowding and allow for additional student capacity. Each project also includes a brief description of the work to be accomplished.

1. Dining Hall Renovation – Deferred Maintenance and New Construction - \$4,075,000 – This project will completely renovate the dining hall and kitchen, and provide some realignment of the dining hall in order to increase the seating capacity of the dining hall. The project will replace and upgrade aging kitchen equipment including major appliances. The building interior has not had major work since 1985, the dining hall is too small to adequately allow all of the students to assemble during meal times, and some of the kitchen equipment is aging and is beginning to fail.
2. Academic Wing Expansion – New Construction - \$22,115,000 – This project proposes construction of an academic wing expansion to the academic building (building 1330) and

construction of a commons in the academic building. The Activity Center (Auditorium) will also be expanded at this time to meet code compliance for occupational limits. The project will add eight classrooms to the academic building and will allow the vacation of eight classrooms, spread out through the rest of campus (four in building 1331, two in building 290 and two in building 299). Consolidation of the classroom space will provide for a more efficient class change time for students, and the ability to better supervise and insure the safety of all students on campus. The project will, through vacation of the eight classrooms, allow Mt. Edgecumbe, in a future project, to construct dorm space that will serve to decrease the density in some of the dorm rooms that are housing up to six students each. These overcrowded dorm rooms exceed the occupancy standards of the City and Borough of Sitka, and need to be addressed as soon as space is available to do so.

3. Student Housing Upgrades – Deferred Maintenance/New Construction - \$2,305,000 – This project will renovate space freed up by the classrooms vacated with the construction of the academic wing expansion project and convert them into dorm space in order to decrease the density of existing dorm rooms in the boys and girls dorms (buildings 292 and 293). The dorm rooms of concern are currently housing six or more students in violation of Sitka's building code requirements. Dorm space will be constructed in the dining hall building (building 290), and the second floor of the Kuspuk Hall (building 299).
4. Covered Campus Walkway – Capital Project - \$526,000 – This project will provide for a covered walkway from the main academic building to building 299 on the upper campus. The walkway frame is to be constructed of aluminum with clear composite roofing to allow for maximum natural light.