

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

# Mt Edgecumbe High School Aquatic Facility

**State Funding Requested:** \$20,000,000**House District:** Statewide (1-40)

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

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

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project:** \$20,000,000*There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Project is funding for design and construction of an aquatic recreation center at Mount Edgecumbe High School. A pool facility would improve the health and education of students attending the high school, as well as benefit state/federal agencies and the Sitka community.

Mount Edgecumbe High School was founded in 1947. The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development administers Mount Edgecumbe as Alaska's public boarding school in Sitka. The school serves 400 students from over 100 Alaska communities. The school is a leader school in educating students from rural Alaska and training future state leaders.

Mt. Edgecumbe's success has been recognized on a state and national level. Students are required to learn a foreign language, become familiar with an array of technologies, and participate in a robust academic environment. Mount Edgecumbe graduates serve as leaders in their community, the Alaska State Legislature, the armed forces, and a range of professional capacities.

State funding through the education bond package will provide for design and construction of the aquatic center on the Mount Edgecumbe campus. Recreational opportunities complement a rigorous academic curriculum, and improve the quality of life for young students who are away from their homes and families. In addition, drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in Alaska. A swimming pool serving students from across Alaska would provide the opportunity to educate future community leaders in this area.

In addition to use by students, the pool will be made available for the Sitka community as well as state and federal agencies. A variety of expected partnerships include: Alaska Public Safety Academy, U.S. Coast Guard, SEARHC hospital, and other community organizations.

The project is an important addition to Mount Edgecumbe High School and will greatly benefit its students and Alaska.

**Project Timeline:**

FY 2011

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

Alaska 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

**Mt. Edgecumbe High School Swimming Pool  
2010 Cost Estimates**

This whitepaper provides general size and cost estimates and rationale for those estimates for a swimming pool attached to the south side of the B.J. McGillis Gymnasium at Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska.

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**Overall Construction Project Description and Cost Projection**

Size of swimming pool: 75' by 36'<sup>1</sup>

Size of building (includes locker rooms, deck, and equipment/operation room): 225' by 108'<sup>2</sup>

Total GSF: 24,300 Gross Square Feet (GSF as measured by outside lines of proposed building)<sup>3</sup>

Total Cost Projection: \$16,740,000<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Size projected from Chart 2 in the DEED publication "Swimming Pool Guidelines"  
(<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/facilities/publications/SwimmingPool.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Building size estimate based on the common accepted ratio of one-third swimming pool and two-thirds support building.

<sup>3</sup> Swimming pool sizes are typically identified as GSF or Gross Square Feet.

<sup>4</sup> Cost projection based on the following information on the last 4 pools built in Alaska:

Location	GSF	Total Cost	Cost per GSF
Ketchikan	35,000	\$23,500,000	\$671
Juneau	34,000	\$19,800,000	\$582
Kodiak	20,950	\$14,210,000	\$678
Petersburg	23,566	\$8,800,000	\$373

The Petersburg pool was constructed prior to the meteoric rise in steel and general construction costs. Throwing the lowest cost per GSF out as uncharacteristically low, the GSF for the estimate above was derived by using an average per GSF cost of the other three locations (\$620 per GSF).

Costs may be less. The building site is flat and level. Heating equipment will be near.

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## **Maintenance Cost Projection**

Standard Maintenance Costs are figured by taking two percent (2%) of the construction cost:

$\$16,700,000 \times .02 = \$334,000$  per year

Please note that this cost is for multiple years. Clearly, maintenance costs in the first years will be considerably less due to the newness of the construction.

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## **Operation Cost Estimate**

Sitka School District cites operation costs for existing Sitka pools as between \$200,000 and \$250,000 per year. This figure includes both Sitka pools. Half of that results in projected costs as \$100,000 and \$125,000 a year. We believe that Community Schools administered by Sitka School District could share some of these costs with a collaborative community effort.

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## **Advantages to a Swimming Pool at MEHS**

Drowning is the number one cause of death in Alaska. A swimming pool servicing 400 students from over 100 communities around Alaska would provide water and drownproofing safety for future generations of Alaskans.

Swimming is one of the best fitness activities for our mostly Alaskan Native student population, who face significant health challenges.

Swimming provides excellent recreation opportunities for our students and others.

The pool will be accessible to other local, State, and Federal organizations – who might require a pool in order to continue their operations here in Sitka: the Alaska Policy Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard, SEARHC hospital, and the City of Sitka.