

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education and Early Development**

March 10, 2026

From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 5

◆ ISSUE

Mount Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) is a state-operated boarding school serving students from across Alaska, providing rigorous academics, culturally relevant programs, and expanded career pathways.

◆ BACKGROUND

- In FY2025, MEHS faced a \$1.6 million budget overage due to the expiration of COVID relief funds and increased contract costs. DEED implemented corrective actions, including staffing adjustments, contract renegotiations, and leadership changes.
- Significant facility upgrades were completed in FY2026:
 - Kitchen repairs and equipment replacement totaling \$154,800 reduced USDA violations from 59 to 4.
 - Dormitory improvements totaling \$73,400 included deep cleaning, new mattresses, and updated furniture
- Academic enhancements included expanded dual-enrollment courses (UAS, UAF, Iñupiaq College), a Comprehensive Literacy Grant, and increased student engagement through cultural programming and extracurricular activities
- Enrollment as of October 2025 was 388 students, down from 422 in FY2024. Efforts are underway to rebuild enrollment and improve assessment outcomes.
- The Governor's FY2027 proposed operating budget for MEHS is \$16.89 million, supporting 44 permanent full-time positions and critical services.
- Superintendent David Langford and Commissioner Bishop will be present to brief the board on the impetus for change, present state, and future needs of MEHS.

◆ OPTIONS

This is an informative update, no action is required.