

Edgecumbe to admit students, no new freshmen

Mount Edgecumbe Boarding School will be able to admit new sophomores, juniors or seniors next year but no freshmen will be allowed to enroll in the high school, according to U.S. Sen. Don Murkowski.

Speaking at a teleconference press conference this week, Murkowski said that the Department of Interior on Sunday agreed to allow the Bureau of Indian Affairs Day school in Sitka to remain open for another year. No freshmen stu-

dents will be allowed to enroll, however, said Murkowski who has been a staunch supporter of keeping the school open.

Mount Edgecumbe is the only alternate high school for many students from Alaska's Bush area. The school houses about 370 Alaska Native students.

The school was slated to be closed this year but a one-year reprieve was announced for operation in December. How-
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BIA budget includes \$10 million for repairs

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ever, that reprieve was rescinded for two weeks last month until Murkowski's latest announcement.

Murkowski also said that \$10 million is included in the Department of Interior budget to help ease the financial burden that the state of Alaska would assume if it is given all 37 BIA day schools this year.

The BIA recently announced it intends to turn over all 37 BIA day schools to state control in October.

State officials, however, have been trying to persuade the BIA to send some money along with the schools to help pay to bring the schools up to state minimum building

codes and fire codes.

Many of the schools are classed as not meeting state building codes or fire codes. According to Gov. Jay Hammond's office, the cost of improving all 37 of the schools would be \$77 million.

Hammond also estimated that if the state is to assume control of Mount Edgecumbe, repairs would cost about \$25 million, bringing total repair costs for the federal schools to about \$100 million.

State Rep. Al Adams of Kotzebue recently introduced a bill in the House which would provide for state funding for Edgecumbe if the federal government pays for half of the cost of the school. No action has been taken on that proposal.