

Ernie Griffin
Former President, State Board of Education



"I think the students who graduate from Mt. Edgecumbe have the greatest chance of obtaining leadership roles in the State of Alaska."

When the Bureau of Indian Affairs decided to close Mt. Edgecumbe school in Sitka, Ernie Griffin took matters into her own hands. She went to Washington D.C. to see Senator Ted Stevens.

With Senator Stevens' help, Ernie was able to obtain federal funds to upgrade Mt. Edgecumbe and transfer it to state operation as a Pacific Rim education center. Now statewide students learn Japanese, Chinese and Korean, computer technology and business. There is also an entrepreneurship program where students catch, process, package and market seafood in Japan—at a profit.

"I think that Senator Stevens' seniority benefits Alaska. I think it would be a terrible mistake to replace him. He's not just a senator for Alaska, he's a statesman for Alaska."

Senator Ted Stevens—His seniority is Alaska's strength

