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Olympia, WA 98504-7200



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

May 4, 2022

() Action Required
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 023-22, SYSTEM AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Principals
High School Counselors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Students' Right to Wear Tribal Regalia at School Events

CONTACT: Jon Claymore, Executive Director, Office of Native Education
360-725-66219, jon.claymore@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

In 2020, the Washington State Legislature affirmed inherent rights assured through tribal sovereignty and expressly provided that school districts must allow American Indian and Alaskan Native K–12 and higher education students who are members of federally recognized tribes to wear tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance at graduation ceremonies and related events ([House Bill 2551](#)). In addition, school districts and institutions of higher education are required, when necessary, to update relevant policies or procedures in accordance with this law.

School district leaders and staff are encouraged to promptly consult with tribal nations and collaborate with Native American parent and family advisory committees and Native American education leaders to develop policies, procedures, and practices associated with the law. It is critical that districts work in a timely manner to resolve any potential issues regarding cultural inclusivity prior to district or school ceremonies and events.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Jon Claymore, Executive Director of Office of Native Education, at 360-725-6219 or email jon.claymore@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

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System and School Improvement

Jon Claymore
Executive Director
Office of Native Education

CR:mm

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