



2012 Native American Mascot Resolution

Encouraging Local School Boards to Review Policies Related to the Use of Native American Mascots or Other Symbols

Adopted on September 27, 2012

WHEREAS the State Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to encouraging local districts to remove biased, derogatory, or inflammatory mascots, logos, names, and symbols from their schools; and

WHEREAS numerous Washington State public schools continue to use Native American names, symbols, and images as mascots, nicknames, logos, and or team names; and

WHEREAS in 2005, the American Psychological Association, citing research documenting harm to Native American children, called for the immediate retirement of all Native American mascots, symbols, images, and personalities; and

WHEREAS in 1993, the State Board of Education formally adopted a resolution¹ asking school districts to re-examine their policies regarding the use of Native American mascots. Other states have formally banned Native American mascots, including Oregon in 2012; and

WHEREAS 100 National organizations and tribes have called for the immediate retirement of the use of Native American mascots, including the National Congress of American Indians, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Education Alliance, and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS student achievement data reveals that the achievement gap for Native Americans is widening; and

WHEREAS the State Board is committed to policies that promote an academic climate where each student feels safe, respected, and ready to learn; and

WHEREAS inflammatory mascots are countercurrent to the Board's vision for an excellent and equitable education for all students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Board of Education urges school districts to follow the principles outlined in the 1993 Board Resolution. Local district leaders are encouraged to review and reevaluate mascot policies that may have an adverse affect on Washington students.