

AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION – PART 1

NEW: GRADUATION CEREMONIES – (MN Statutes 124d.792)

- School districts and charter schools must allow American Indian students to wear American Indian regalia, Tribal regalia, or objects of cultural significance at a graduation ceremony.

NEW: AMERICAN INDIAN MASCOTS – (MN Statutes 121A.041)

- A public school may not have or adopt a name, symbol, or image that depicts or refers to an American Indian Tribe, individual, custom, or tradition to be used as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name of the school, district, or school with the district, unless the school obtain an exemption.
- A public school may seek an exemption by submitting a request in writing to **all 11** federally recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota and to the Tribal Nations Education Committee by **September 1, 2023**.
- The exemption is denied if any of the 11 Tribal Nations or the Tribal Nations Education Committee oppose the exemption by **December 15, 2023**.
- A school whose request for an exemption is denied must comply by **September 1, 2025**.

NEW: TOBACCO - (MN Statutes 144.4165)

- An American Indian student may **carry a medicine pouch containing loose tobacco** intended as observance of traditional spiritual or cultural practices.

NOTE: *This provision does not change the prohibition on smoking, chewing, or ingesting tobacco.*

EFFECTIVE DATE - MAY 25, 2023