



COLORADO COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Senate Bill 21-116 Implementation Process

Senate Bill 21-116 (“SB21-116”) prohibits any public school or institute charter school located in the State of Colorado from using an American Indian mascot on or after June 1, 2022. As required by law, the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA) posted the list of schools that have American Indian mascots as of July 30, 2021 on the CCIA [website](#). CCIA will update this list regularly.

CCIA Commissioners will vote on whether to ratify the list of schools that are out of compliance with SB21-116 at its First Quarterly Meeting scheduled for September 23, 2021. After ratification of the list, CCIA, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), will send notification letters to those schools and their school districts that were identified as out of compliance with SB21-116.

In between CCIA regular Quarterly Meetings, which will occur in September 2021, December 2021, March 2022, and May 2022, CCIA staff will meet with schools and their school districts to answer process related questions. Schools on the list will provide CCIA staff with the information and documentation further described below about any changes made to comply with SB21-116. If requested by one or more schools/school districts, the CCIA will convene in a Special Meeting to be presented with the same information and documentation that was provided to CCIA staff.

Every school that is required to come into compliance with SB21-116 must submit information and documentation (*e.g.*, letters from school administrators, design records, school board minutes, renovation plans and contracts) to CCIA staff indicating that the school will discontinue the use of an American Indian mascot, which is defined by SB21-116 as “a name, symbol, or image that depicts or refers to an American Indian tribe, individual, custom, or tradition that is used as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name for the school,” and share whether a replacement mascot has been selected. Documentation should include a timeline demonstrating when changes will be initiated through their completion. The act allows those schools that are using American Indian mascots to apply for state financial assistance for public school capital construction grants.

CCIA will hold a vote during CCIA Quarterly Meetings for commission members to decide if the changes made by the schools/school districts are sufficient to be removed from the list of non-compliant schools. CCIA’s Fourth Quarterly Meeting in May 2022 will be the last opportunity for schools/school districts to demonstrate compliance with the bill’s requirements before the June 1, 2022 deadline. The school district of any noncompliant public school, or the state charter school institute in the case of any noncompliant institute charter school, must pay a fine of \$25,000.00 to the State Treasurer for each month that the school continues to use a prohibited American Indian mascot, which will be credited to the state education fund created in Article IX, § 17 of the Colorado Constitution.