



More Offensive "Indian" Mascots Retired as Momentum Continues into Early 2021

"While the stated intent may be to 'honor' American Indians, there is a great potential for less than respectful behaviors to occur in conjunction with these mascots. Additionally, people should not be considered mascots. It is demeaning to be relegated to a stereotyping of a people. This should not be allowed to continue."

-- Chief Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Tribe

Norwalk High School (IA) "Warriors"

The Norwalk Community School District decided in July 2020 to [undergo a rebrand of the mascot at Norwalk HS](#). The school will retain the "Warriors" name but retire any racially insensitive imagery. At a Board meeting last December, Tiffany Redman, the district's communications coordinator, shared an update regarding the rebrand and gave a first look at unfinalized concept designs for a new logo. New designs could be voted on by students and staff as soon as this month.

Shawnee Mission North High School (KS) "Indians"

On January 25, members of the Shawnee Mission Board of Education [voted unanimously to change the district's non-discrimination policy](#), forcing mascot changes at four of its schools. Shawnee Mission North HS, Rushton ES and Shawanoe ES will retire their "Indians" mascots, while Belinder ES will retire its "Braves" mascot. Among other requirements, new mascots must not be derogatory or offensive toward a person or class of persons and must be culturally and racially sensitive and appropriate. The district plans on working with school principals to figure out new mascots by the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Watertown High School (CT) "Indians"

Also on January 25, the Watertown Board of Education [voted 4-3 to retire its "Indians" mascot](#). The retirement will take effect no later than July 1, 2022. Monday's vote followed an August 2020 letter by a group of Watertown HS alumni and community members, who implored the BOE to retire the mascot. The Board also received letters in support of retiring the mascot from several local Tribes. Watertown HS becomes the seventh school in Connecticut to retire its' Native "themed" mascot since 2019.

***Ending "Indian" Mascots** is an informational service provided by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which is the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments*

and communities. It has been leading Indian Country's movement to eradicate offensive "Indian" mascots from sports and popular culture for the past 50 years by educating schools, sports leagues, and the general public about the [many harms they cause Native people](#). To learn more, please click [here](#).

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.

