



## More School Districts Retire their Native "Themed" Mascots, NCAI Shares Statement on Atlanta "Braves" Mascot and Fan Rituals

*"Native people are not mascots, and degrading rituals like the 'tomahawk chop' that dehumanize and harm us have no place in American society."*

-- NCAI President Fawn Sharp (Quinault)

### Saranac Jr./Sr. High School (MI) "R\*dsk\*ns"

On Monday, October 25, [the Saranac Community Schools Board of Education voted unanimously to "respectfully retire" its "R\\*dsk\\*ns" mascot.](#) The decision follows a lengthy review process during which time district administrators consulted with the nearby Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. "Let's enjoy this change and really embrace it and celebrate," said Saranac Superintendent Jason Smith. The district plans to keep its current mascot through the end of the 2021-22 school year and will seek grants and donations to help cover the costs associated with the change.

### Hartford High School (MI) "Indians"

On Friday, October 29, [Hartford Public Schools administrators announced that the district will be retiring its "Indians" mascot at the end of the 2021-22 school year.](#) Hartford Superintendent Kelly Millin and Board of Education President Mike Banic sent a joint letter to the community informing them of the decision. District administrators in Hartford also worked closely with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi when deciding the fate of the "Indians" mascot. "What once served as a representation for culture, no longer carries the same point of pride for all that see it, and we have been asked to change our Native American logo and mascot," said Superintendent Millin and BOE President Banic. The district will begin planning for a new mascot immediately.

### Major League Baseball (MLB)

On Wednesday, October 27, [NCAI reiterated its longstanding opposition to the Atlanta "Braves" mascot and "tomahawk chop" fan ritual](#) as the team prepared to host nationally televised World Series games. "The league and team have an obligation to genuinely listen to Tribal Nations and leaders across the United States about how the team's mascot impacts them," said NCAI President Fawn Sharp.

On Sunday, October 3, [MLB's Cleveland franchise played its final game as the "Indians."](#) Beginning next spring, the team will compete as [the Cleveland "Guardians."](#)

**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](#). To request NCAI's assistance in your community, please email [mascots@ncai.org](mailto:mascots@ncai.org).

