



# NM INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

## SUPPORT THE REGALIA BILL

### Protect the Right for Native Students to Wear Regalia at Graduation and Promotional Ceremonies

### WHY IT MATTERS

Native American students in New Mexico often face challenges in wearing traditional regalia or cultural objects during graduations, as their rights to do so are not always protected.

These restrictions undermine the state's commitment to honoring the cultural heritage and identity of Native American students, preventing them from celebrating their achievements in a meaningful way.

### WHAT IS REGALIA?

Regalia refers to traditional clothing, accessories, and objects of cultural significance worn or used by Native American students to honor their heritage. This includes items like jewelry, moccasins, feathers, beaded caps, and ceremonial attire.

### SOLUTION

This bill ensures that Native American students in New Mexico have the right to wear traditional regalia and cultural objects during graduation and other promotional ceremonies.

It guarantees that school boards and charter schools cannot restrict students from celebrating their achievements in a manner that reflects their identity, fostering a more inclusive and respectful educational environment.

### Other States with Similar Regalia Laws for Native American Students

Arkansas	Minnesota	North Dakota
Arizona	Mississippi	Oklahoma
California	Montana	Oregon
Colorado	Nebraska	South Dakota
Illinois	Nevada	Utah
Kansas	North Carolina	Washington

Stand with Native American students and protect their right to celebrate in a way that honors both their cultural identity and political integrity.

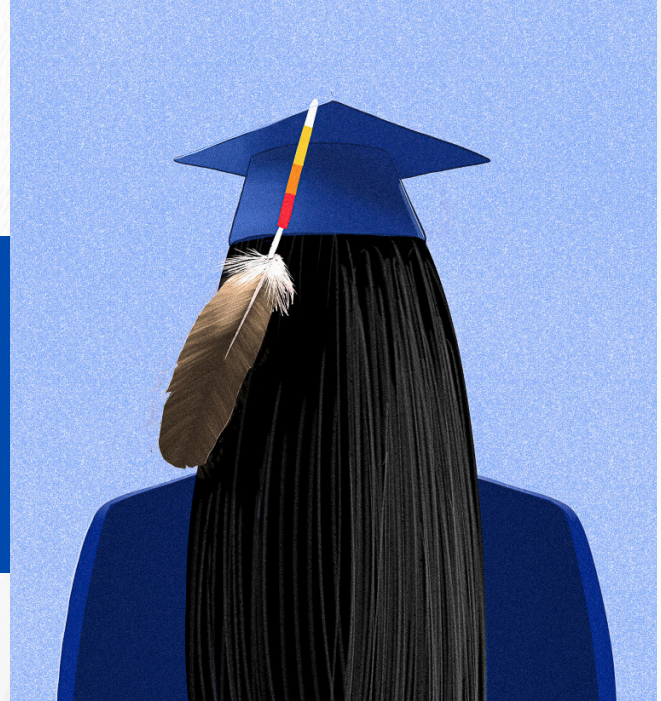


Illustration by Tomás Karmelo Amaya, Indian Country Today

### BY THE NUMBERS

**41,905 TOTAL** Native American Students enrolled in NM public schools

36,423 students from Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes within New Mexico

5,482 students from Tribes outside of NM

Source: NM PED SY 23-24 NOVA 120- Day Snapshot

### SPONSORING AGENCY NM Indian Affairs Department

### LEGISLATIVE SPONSORS

#### SB 163



Senator Benny Shendo, Jr.

#### HB 194



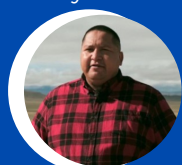
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