

Tribal Regalia Policy

The Board of Education (“Board”) of Virtual Preparatory Academy of Oklahoma (“School”) hereby adopts this Tribal Regalia Policy authorizing the wearing of tribal regalia during the School’s official graduation ceremonies, whether held at a public or private location.

Tribal Regalia Defined. For the purposes of this policy, “tribal regalia” means traditional garments, jewelry, other adornments such as an eagle feather, an eagle plume, a beaded cap, a stole, or similar objects of cultural and religious significance worn by members of a federally recognized Indian tribe or the tribe of another country.

The Board specifically states that tribal regalia does not include any firearm, knife, or other weapon. Tribal regalia also does not include any object that is otherwise prohibited by federal law or prohibited by this policy as set forth herein.

Student Conduct and Behavior. This Policy does not limit or alter the authority of School personnel to regulate student behavior pursuant to the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act as well as any Board policies regarding student behavior and conduct. Regardless of whether a student is wearing tribal regalia, the School may enforce student conduct and behavior laws, rules, and policies as may be necessary.

Safety; Prohibited Items. The Board is authorized by law to specify characteristics of any garment, jewelry, other adornment, or object that the school or institution finds will endanger the safety of a student or others or interfere with graduation ceremonies if worn by a student. As such, the Board hereby prohibits any jewelry or other adornment that may otherwise be considered a weapon as an endangerment to the safety of students or others attending the graduation ceremonies. The Board further prohibits any tribal regalia garment that would cover the face or mask the face of any individual as an endangerment to the safety of students or others attending the graduation ceremonies. Additionally, the Board prohibits any tribal regalia that includes flashing or strobing lights as an endangerment to the safety of students or others attending the graduation ceremonies.

Adopted: _____

Authority: 70 O.S. §24-160