

NEWS AND OPINION

Mascot law causes first school change



School Zone

The Journal Sentinel education

reporters offer news and notes from their beat

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By *Amy Hetzner* of the *Journal Sentinel*

The Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau School District will no longer use the Redmen nickname or the logo of an Indian in headdress, following a 7-2 vote by the school board last week, [according to WTAQ](#).

It's apparently the first mascot and name change after Gov. Jim Doyle [signed a law](#) that allows the state schools superintendent to order a school to change race-based team names, logos, mascots or nicknames based on citizen complaints.

The law is not set to become effective until Thursday, the day after it is published, according to Patrick Gasper, spokesman for the state Department of Public Instruction. The department

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is developing administrative rules to manage the legislation, he said.

One senior at Mukwonago High School has said that [he plans to file a complaint](#) against his school's use of the Indian logo. Muskego and Menomonee Falls high schools also are among approximately three dozen schools in the state that have Indian-related team names or logos.

About Amy Hetzner

I have covered schools in the metro Milwaukee area since I joined the paper in 2000. Prior to that, I worked at newspapers in Alabama and Illinois. I hold a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's in journalism from Northwestern University.

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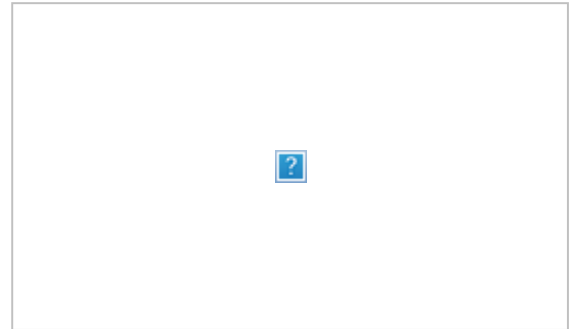
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