

**EDUCATION**

# For a century, Manual HS's mascot has been a Native American slur. That could soon change

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## Will the Washington Redskins change their name?

SportsPulse: The Black Lives Matter movement and recent protests have reignited the debate over the Washington Redskins changing their name. Mike Jones explains why a change is unlikely to happen anytime soon. *USA TODAY*

*Corrections and clarifications: An earlier version of this story misstated the roots of the Sheridan High School nickname, the Blackhawks.*

Officials at Emmerich Manual High School are revisiting the name of the school's longtime mascot, the Redskins, school leadership told IndyStar.

The south-side high school, which was recently returned to Indianapolis Public Schools after a state takeover in 2012 and will be operated as a charter by Christel

House Indianapolis, has had the Redskins mascot [since the 1890s](#).

The decision comes as communities across the country are reckoning with representation of BIPOC (Black, indigenous and people of color) in American culture, and as the NFL and the Washington Redskins are undergoing a ["thorough review"](#) of the team's name.

Emmerich Manual High School at 2405 Madison Avenue on the near south side of Indianapolis. The Manual Redskins signs are on their baseball field fences, dugouts and press box of their football field. *Matt Kryger / The Star*

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Christel House assumed management of the school on July 1. Executive Director Sarah Weimer told IndyStar via email Wednesday that the organization's educators are "dedicated to changing the conversation in the classroom around the representation of BIPOC."

"In light of the national dialogue that has prompted a reflection on the representation of BIPOC in daily life, it was important to us to begin the process of addressing the mascot in partnership with the community," she wrote.

Weimer said school leaders hope to work with Manual Alumni Association, south side residents, Indianapolis Public Schools and representatives from the local Native American community when discussing the new mascot.

"We are honored to play a part in the 125-year rich history of Manual High School and aim to respect the numerous traditions over the past decades while looking to a vibrant future for upcoming generations for the Southside and wider Indianapolis community," Weimer wrote.

In a statement shared with IndyStar Wednesday night, IPS said it supports Christel House's decision to review the current mascot: "As outlined in the district's recently approved racial equity policy, IPS is committed to respecting the dignity

and protecting the equality of all of the students we serve. This is an important step in that direction."

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Locally, several schools have mascots depicting Native Americans or have Native American ties: the Brebeuf Jesuit Braves, Indian Creek Braves (Trafalgar), Danville Warriors and Whiteland Warriors. Elsewhere in Indiana, more than a dozen schools have the same or similar names:

- Wabash Apaches
- Cowan Blackhawks
- Belmont Braves
- Borden Braves
- Brownstown Central Braves
- Maconaquah Braves
- Tecumseh Braves
- Terre Haute South Braves
- Anderson Indians
- Lake Central Indians
- Milan Indians
- Mississinewa Indians
- Portage Indians
- South Bend St. Joseph Indians
- Twin Lakes Indians
- Union City Indians
- Knox Redskins

IndyStar has reached out to Weimer for clarification on when the work of selecting

a new mascot will begin and how community members can become a part of those discussions.

*IndyStar reporter Kyle Neddenriep and sports editor Matt Glenesk contributed.*

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