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**GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM 25-02**

**TO:** School District Superintendents, Charter School Sponsors

**FROM:** Dr. Steve Canavero, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction 

**DATE:** June 10, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Graduation Adornment Appeal and Resolution under NRS 388.915

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In 2023, Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 388.915 was amended to establish the right of public-school students to wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance at school graduation ceremonies. While the statute affirms that decisions regarding specific adornments are made at the local level, it also provides students the right to appeal such decisions to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Upon receiving an appeal, the Superintendent is required to consult with the Nevada Indian Commission and the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs before issuing a decision.

The Nevada Department of Education recently received an appeal from a student whose request to wear a military-affiliated adornment, specifically, a Navy sash, was denied by their local school district. The appeal was formally reviewed by the Interim Superintendent in accordance with the provisions of NRS 388.915.

As part of the review process, the Department consulted with both the Nevada Indian Commission and the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs. Following these consultations and a thorough review, the Interim Superintendent determined that the Navy sash qualifies as a permissible cultural adornment under the statute. Both Commissions affirmed that the military holds significant national cultural value and that cultural expression under NRS 388.915 may include service in the armed forces and its associated traditions and symbols.

Accordingly, the Department issued a formal decision letter granting the student permission to wear the Navy sash during their graduation ceremony.

Any appeal the Superintendent receives will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. School districts are encouraged to consider this determination when reviewing similar requests locally. Consistency with the Department's interpretation of NRS 388.915 helps ensure equitable application and upholds the spirit of the law.