[School Principal/School District Superintendent/Graduation Coordinator]
[School District Address]

Re: [Student's name]'s right under California Education Code Section 35183.1 to wear Tribal regalia at [Name of School]'s graduation ceremony

Dear Superintendent/Principal/Graduation Coordinator [Name(s)],

I am the parent/guardian of [Student's name], a graduating student at [Name of school]. [Add sentence here regarding your child's tribal membership or affiliation.] [Student's name] intends to wear [Tribal regalia or a recognized object of religious or cultural significance] as an adornment at the 2026 graduation ceremony of [Name of school], consistent with Education Code Section 35183.1.

Effective January 1, 2026, the amended law states (new amendments in bold):

> (a) A pupil may wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance, **as determined by the pupil and the pupil's family**, as an adornment at school graduation ceremonies or related school events.
> **(b) A local educational agency shall not require either of the following:**
> **(1) A preapproval process for a pupil to exercise the pupil's rights pursuant to subdivision (a).**
> **(2) A pupil to wear a cap if the cap is incompatible with the adornment.**
> (c) This section does not limit a local educational agency's discretion and authority to prohibit an item that is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, the ceremony.
> (d) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:
> (1) "Adornment" means either of the following:
> **(A) Something attached to, worn with, or worn in place of, the cap customarily worn at school graduation ceremonies.**
> **(B) Something attached to or worn with, but not replacing, the gown customarily worn at school graduation ceremonies.**
> (2) "Cultural" means recognized practices and traditions of a certain group of people.
> (3) "Local educational agency" means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.[1]

Refusing to allow [Student's name] to wear [Tribal regalia or recognized object of religious or cultural significance] at [Name of school]'s graduation ceremony violates [Student's Name] rights under California Education Code Section 35183.1. I am available for contact at [parent/guardian cell phone/email address] to discuss [Student's name]'s plans to wear [object/regalia] at [his/her/their] graduation ceremony. Thank you.

Sincerely,
[Signature of parent/guardian]
[Parent/guardian name]

Cc:[Name of principal or superintendent]

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[1] CAL. EDUC. CODE §35183.1 (1998) (effective Jan. 1, 2026)

[Name of school or district]