



AAUW Florida Priority:

Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools

The American Association of University Women of Florida has over 10,000 members and supporters statewide. We advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Period Poverty Talking Points 2023

Period Poverty

- Low-income women and girls do not have the funds to purchase menstrual period products, so they may not go to school or to work.
- They may use products other than menstrual products or use products longer than recommended, creating health problems.
- Inability to use adequate products can lead to symptoms indicative of moderate to severe depression.
- State and Federal safety net programs, such as SNAP (aka food stamps) and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) cannot be used to purchase period supplies.
- 88% of women agree that period products are basic necessities. renewingdignity.org

Menstrual Products in Florida Schools

- **Florida legislature recently removed the tax on these products.**
- Menstrual products, as other paper products, increased sharply in price since the beginning of COVID 19 pandemic. Prices for pads on Walmart.com vary from 11-20 cents. Using 4 pads daily for 7 days the cost per month range from \$3.00 to \$5.60, but the initial expense is greater ranging from \$8 -12 per package.
- Students in some schools may be able to go to a nurse or a school counselor in order to obtain products, but this requires seeking an employee. Products in the past have been available in female restrooms, but they are no longer in machines.
- If products are available in specified restrooms, a student can reduce the time outside of class to obtain products and not stay home from school.

SB 334 / HB 389 MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUPPORT

SPONSORS: SEN. LAUREN BOOK / REP. KELLY SKIDMORE, CO-SPONSORS: REP. JOE CASELLO

Senate Referrals: Education PreK-12, Appropriations on Education, Fiscal Policy

House Referrals: Education Quality Subcommittee, PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, Education & Employment Subcommittee

Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools: Citing this act as the “Learning with Dignity Act”; defining the term “menstrual hygiene products”; requiring school districts to make menstrual hygiene products available, at no charge, in certain schools within the district and in certain locations within such schools; requiring schools to notify students of the availability and locations of such products; encouraging school districts to partner with specified organizations to meet certain requirements.