

AP 3202: Provision of Menstrual Products to Students

Background:

Every student in British Columbia should have access to healthy and effective learning environments. The school system is expected to promote gender equality and create an inclusive learning experience. Lack of access to menstrual products can negatively impact students' school attendance and their social-emotional well-being. Providing all students with convenient access to free menstrual products helps to support their full participation in school activities, reduces stigma and promotes gender equality.

School districts in BC are required to establish clear procedures for providing free menstrual products to students in a manner that upholds privacy, accessibility, and inclusivity.

Procedures:

1. Product Availability and Distribution:

- 1.1 Menstrual products should be available in easily accessible locations within the school, such as washrooms, the school office, and common areas.
- 1.2 The principal shall designate staff members to ensure regular restocking and distribution of menstrual products.
- 1.3 Products should be stored and distributed in discreet and non-transparent containers to respect students' privacy.

2. Education and Awareness:

- 2.1 Principals will ensure that informational materials shall be displayed at the school, promoting awareness of the availability of free menstrual products in key areas of the school, fostering an open and supportive environment.
- 2.2 Schools will include information about the availability of free menstrual products shall be provided during student orientations.
- 2.3 Principals will ensure that written materials are provided to parents to communicate the school's commitment to free, non-stigmatizing menstrual product accessibility.

3. Implementation of Delivery Methods

- 3.1 Principals will ensure that menstrual products are easily accessible without physical or social barriers. For example, products should be available in both gender-neutral and gender-specific restrooms.
- 3.2 The Manager of Operations will establish a consistent schedule for restocking and monitor product availability to prevent shortages.

- 3.3 Schools will consider the developmental levels of students when determining the placement of menstrual product dispensers and storage, ensuring accessibility for all age groups.

4. Privacy and Non-Stigmatization

- 4.1 Principals will ensure that access points to menstrual products are private, minimizing visibility and promoting discretion.
- 4.2 In all communications, language used is to be respectful and inclusive, avoiding stigmatizing terms or stereotypes related to menstruation.
- 4.3 Counseling and support services are to be provided to address any concerns or questions related to menstrual health, promoting an open dialogue.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 5.1 The Manager of Operations will conduct regular audits of product availability and delivery methods to identify and address any issues promptly.
- 5.2 Schools will encourage students to provide feedback on the accessibility and effectiveness of the program, ensuring continuous improvement.

6. Budget and Sustainability

- 6.1 Annually Operations and Manager of Safe Schools & OHS will review the need to purchase additional vending units and ensure the provision of free menstrual products in schools.