

Resolution 2324R-006
Menstrual Equity in Schools

By Directors Zombor and Gokalgandhi

WHEREAS, Administrative Policy 1.01 states that Milwaukee Public Schools will be safe, welcoming, well-maintained, and accessible community centers that meet the needs of all; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of MPS students are economically disadvantaged and menstrual health products are not covered by public health or nutrition benefits programs; and

WHEREAS, Access to menstrual products is a dignity and equity issue for Milwaukee Public School students; and

WHEREAS, Individuals living in poverty disproportionately suffer preventable infections or medical conditions as a result of reusing period products, using them longer than is recommended, or not use them at all; and

WHEREAS, Students who lack consistent access to menstrual health products may choose not to attend school to avoid wearing stained clothing or appear unhygienic; and

WHEREAS, Studies have found a correlation between a lack of menstrual health products being provided in school and students missing school or leaving school early; and

WHEREAS, A survey of high school students by Cotropia (2019) found that nearly 74 percent of respondents who reported needing a menstrual product at school were embarrassed to ask a staff member for the products; and

WHEREAS, Students should be able to access menstrual products without the stress or stigma associated with asking an adult for products; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Administration conduct a pilot program at one school with free menstrual product dispensers in at least fifty percent of the school bathrooms including any gender neutral bathrooms; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an optional student survey and/or focus groups regarding menstrual hygiene product access be conducted before and after the pilot program so the results may be presented to the board before the 2025-26 Budget cycle; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the MPS Administration seek resources — such as budgetary dollars, philanthropic funds, grants, and other revenue resources - to purchase dispensers and menstrual health products for school bathrooms; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board direct the Office of Board Governance to add lobbying the state to fully fund free menstrual hygiene products for all Wisconsin schools to the MPS Legislative Agenda.

Introduced December 21, 2023