

HB134: MENSTRUAL EQUITY IN SCHOOLS

Period Poverty in New Mexico



What is period poverty?

- Period poverty refers to the inability to afford basic hygiene products, such as pads, tampons, and liners for the purpose of managing menstrual bleeding.

Who does period poverty affect?

- Nationwide, 23% of teenage menstruators struggle to afford menstrual products, and nearly 4 in 5 have missed class time because they did not have access to products.

What is our solution?

- Free access to menstrual products in girls' bathrooms, all-gender bathrooms, and at least one boy's bathroom per building in public NM middle and high schools, and in a limited capacity in elementary schools.
- 17 states have passed similar legislation.
- Legislative solutions to period poverty have worked in the past. In New York, a pilot program in public schools that provided free access to menstrual products in bathrooms saw a 2.4% increase in attendance amongst girls.

FAQs:

Will the products in the male restrooms be misused or vandalized?

Any possible misuse of these products is a result of ignorance related to periods and their economic and social consequences. The solution is education; it is possible when menstrual products are understood as a necessity. This legislation will not harm boys—it only has the potential to recognize transgender and nonbinary experiences.

Will the products be stolen or overused by students who are not in need?

Menstrual products may see mass usage when the program is first implemented, but once students believe access to these products to be a constant, overuse will decrease, as seen in other states.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT MENSTRUAL EQUITY IN NM



Planned Parenthood Rocky Mountains

Southwest Women's Law Center

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

League of Women Voters of New Mexico

Transform Education NM

Voices For Children

New Mexico Women

The New Mexico Every Voice Coalition

Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico

Girls Inc of Santa Fe

New Mexico Black Central Organizing Committee