



St. Clair Catholic  
District School Board



## Enclosure 9

# Menstrual Equity Program

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## Background

The purpose of this report is to share information about the Board’s Menstrual Equity Program and planned next steps.

In building and managing the Board’s program note the following:

- Period poverty and period equity (also called menstrual equity) is an issue facing students locally and globally.
- Every student who menstruates should be able to focus on their education and participation in school activities.
- Students must feel empowered about how to care for their periods and we must lower barriers to access.
- It is important to increase awareness of available products.
- Educators are a critical link to addressing the barriers and taboos surrounding menstruation.
- Student voice is critical to program improvement.

The goal of the Board’s Menstrual Equity Program is to provide access to barrier-free menstrual products at every site for students, staff, and visitors.

The phases of the Boards Menstrual Equity Program are detailed below.

### Phase 1 - September 2019 (complete)

- Provide donated and Board purchased menstrual products at every school administration and guidance offices. This currently does not satisfy the requirement of being barrier-free.

### Phase 2 - April 2022

- Our board will provide access to free menstrual products to students, staff and visitors who require them. Barrier-free menstrual product dispensers marked “Free” will be installed in all 26 SCCDSB sites, in the following locations:
  - Universal and/or accessible washrooms
  - All female washrooms
- Posters and stickers will be distributed to each site advising where to access free menstrual products.
- On October 8, 2021, the Ministry of Education (Ministry) sent out memorandum 2021: B21 *Enhanced Student Access to Free Menstrual Products in Ontario Schools*. The Ministry has accepted a three-year donation of menstrual products from Shoppers Drug Mart Incorporated. When products arrive, they will be distributed to our schools.

### Phase 3 – 2022/23 School Year

- Student voice will be sought to gather feedback and suggestions to ensure that strategies are meeting student needs.
- Through school wellness committees and student leadership teams, students will have opportunities to share insights, ideas, and solutions for supporting the Menstrual Equity Program.

## Recommendation

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Menstrual Equity Program*, for information.