MENSTRUAL HEALTH REPORT CARD

Rhode Island

Overall Grade	*State Ranking*
B-	#17

Period poverty is the inability to afford or access menstrual health products, education, or sanitation facilities. In the U.S., 2 in 5 people have struggled to afford period products.[1] When unaddressed, period poverty can lead to missed school and work, increased risk of infections, and shame or isolation due to social stigma.

This report card details the current state of menstrual health policies in your state.

SUBJECT	GRADE	CURRENT POLICY
Menstrual Product Taxation	**A**	Rhode Island removed the tax on menstrual products in 2019.[2]
Menstrual Products in Schools	**B**	Rhode Island requires, but does not fund, the provision of menstrual products at not cost in public schools serving grades 5-12.[3]
Menstrual Products in Incarceration Facilities	**D**	Menstrual products are only provided when inmates are initially committed and for indigent inmates, and this provision is not protected by state law.[4]
Menstrual Products in Public Buildings	**F**	Rhode Island does not require the provision of menstrual products in public buildings.
Good Samaritan Menstrual Product Donations	**A**	Rhode Island has a Good Samaritan law to protect menstrual product donations made in good faith from civil and criminal liability.[5]

Recommendations

1. Create a grant program to assist in funding menstrual products at no cost in low-income schools.
2. Expand the provision of menstrual products in state prisons for all incarcerated individuals.
3. Codify the provision of menstrual products at no cost for incarcerated individuals into state law.

References

1 Alliance for Period Supplies & U by Kotex, 2021
2 RI H5151, 2019
3 RI S0086A, 2021
4 RI 18.47-3 DOC, 2019
5 RI H7140, 2022

DAYS for GIRLS INTERNATIONAL

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