

MENSTRUAL HEALTH REPORT CARD

Washington

Overall Grade State Ranking

A-

#5

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	Washington removed the tax on menstrual products in 2020. ²
Menstrual Products in Schools	B	Washington requires, but does not fund, the provision of menstrual products at no cost to students in grades 6-12 all public, private, charter, and tribal schools. ³
Menstrual Products in Incarceration Facilities	B	While the Washington Department of Corrections policy advises the provision of readily available and unlimited menstrual products at no cost, this policy has not been codified into state law. ⁴
Menstrual Products in Public Buildings	B	In addition to public schools, Washington requires institutes of higher education to provide menstrual products at no cost in female and gender-neutral bathrooms. No other public buildings are required to provide products. ⁵
Good Samaritan Menstrual Product Donations	F	Washington does not have a Good Samaritan Menstrual Product Donation law.

Recommendations

1. Implement a Good Samaritan law to protect menstrual product donations made in good faith from civil & criminal liability.
2. Create a grant program to assist in funding menstrual products for low-income schools.
3. Codify the provision of menstrual products in incarceration facilities into state law.

References

1 Alliance for Period Supplies & U by Kotex, 2021

2 Washington SB 5147, 2020

3 Washington HB 1273, 2021

4 State of Washington Department of Corrections, DOC 940.080

5 RCW 28B.170.010

