

October 4, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
5th Floor, 438 University Avenue  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce,

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) Student Trustees spearheaded an initiative to make menstrual products available free of charge in our schools. This program received Board approval, and beginning in September 2020 each SCDSB secondary school's female and single-use washrooms were equipped with a menstrual product dispenser that provides menstrual products at no cost to students.

Menstrual products are essential to the health and well-being of people who menstruate, yet they continue to be a stigmatizing topic for youth. The inability to afford menstrual products may become a barrier to students' positive learning experience and healthy growth. The lack of menstrual product access affects one's ability to participate in school. As an example, seventy percent of people who menstruate have missed school, work or have declined social activities because of their period (Plan International Canada, 2019).

School boards across Ontario have implemented similar programs in recent years. At the SCDSB Board Meeting on September 22, 2021, the Board of Trustees unanimously supported the Board Chairperson writing a letter requesting that the Ministry of Education provide funding to all Ontario school boards to provide menstrual products to students who need them, free of charge.

The equitable access to menstrual products, at no cost to students, will contribute to fostering a positive sense of self and belonging amongst students, and will support making Ontario's schools safe, healthy and respectful places to learn and work.

Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd  
Chairperson  
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Board of Trustees, SCDSB  
John Dance, Director of Education, SCDSB  
Dawn Stephens, Associate Director, SCDSB  
Stephen Mensah, Executive Director, Toronto Youth Cabinet