



June 29, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Hon. Rachna Singh – Provincial Minister of Education and Childcare

Dear Minister Singh:

Re: Request for Additional Funding to Ensure Barrier-Free Menstrual Products Are Available in All Variations of School Washroom Spaces

At its public meeting on June 27th, 2023, the Chilliwack Board of Education approved a motion to send a letter to the Minister of Education & Childcare and the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity. The letter is to communicate the financial challenges involved in addressing period poverty, particularly in providing menstrual products in schools, and to request support in delivering these essential resources to students.

The Support Services for Schools Ministerial Order was amended on April 3rd, 2019. The updated order mandated that Boards of Education establish policies and procedures to provide barrier-free menstrual products to students of all gender identities or expressions at no cost. This was to be done in a way that protected student privacy.

Education Minister Rob Fleming followed with the announcement that a new ministerial order was to be implemented with immediate effect. The order included \$300,000 in provincial startup funding. The ministry was to *“collaborate with school districts, community, and education partners to assess the requirements of each district, identify gaps, and provide the necessary funding to meet the new requirement.”*

The Chilliwack School District received \$6,431 as startup funding, which was used to install dispensers in all female and gender-neutral washrooms across schools. In addition, the district spent \$43,250 for the installation. The yearly cost for menstrual products has been around \$4,000 to \$5,000.

At its public meeting held on June 27th, the Board of Education reaffirmed [Policy 433: Provision of Menstrual Products](#) to ensure the District provides for consistent availability and supply of menstrual products in all variations of washrooms, including male, female, and gender-neutral washroom spaces. To ensure the availability of menstrual product dispensers in at least one male washroom space in all schools, an additional cost of \$19,000 will be incurred, along with an annual product cost of \$1,000.



**Chilliwack
School District**

Based on the aforementioned data, it is clear that the Ministry of Education and Childcare has not consulted with the Chilliwack School District to identify gaps in providing barrier-free menstrual products and fund school districts above the initially allocated dollars pledged by former Minister of Education Rob Fleming in the [B.C. Government's news release](#) from Friday, April 19th, 2019.

We commend the efforts by the provincial government to provide free menstrual products to students in schools, which was an important step in ensuring equity in our schools in the province of BC. We strongly believe our collective responsibility is to create safe and inclusive learning spaces where all students can be supported to thrive, aligned with the Ministry of Education and Child Care [Policy for Student Success](#), where B.C. schools must do everything possible to prepare all students for their future.

We appreciate your efforts in ensuring adequate funding for school districts to support this important initiative. The Chilliwack Board of Education looks forward to your timely response to the concerns articulated above as we collectively make strides to enhance support for students in our school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W Reichelt".

Willow Reichelt
Chair – Board of Education
Chilliwack School District #33

CC: MLA: Dan Coulter
MLA: Kelli Paddon
Premier: Honourable David Eby
British Columbia School Trustees Association