

## **MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS**

### **Background**

The Division recognizes the right of all children and youth to education. Furthermore, Good Spirit School Division is committed to ensuring all students feel welcome, safe and a sense of belonging. This includes creating healthy school environments where all students who menstruate feel safe, respected, and included.

Like toilet paper, menstrual hygiene products are necessary for sanitary reasons for over half of our population. Access to menstrual hygiene products should not be a barrier for young people who wish to attend school or to participate in any school activities. Access can contribute to improved attendance and to an increase in performance of students in schools. This will support equity among all students and families.

### **Procedures**

1. Healthy, Sustainable Physical and Social Environments: All GSSD students will have access to free menstrual products when at school.
  - 1.1 Menstrual hygiene dispensers with access to free tampons and pads will be installed in a gender-neutral washroom in every school that has any grades 6-12 students.
    - 1.1.1 Schools with instructional space on more than one level and that are greater than 10,000 square meters will receive 2 dispensers.
  - 1.2 Schools that have grades 4 and/or 5 students will have a container of pads that any student can access in the gender-neutral washroom. Schools will be asked to provide the container (e.g., basket, tupperware container).
  - 1.3 All students who menstruate i.e., (most females, most trans males) will have their confidentiality respected.
2. High-quality Teaching and Learning: All GSSD students will learn that menstruation is a healthy and natural process in alignment with curriculum outcomes.
3. Re-stocking of the dispensers is the responsibility of the caretakers, similar to their responsibility for restocking of toilet paper. The expense for the menstrual products is part of the caretaking material and supplies budget.