


# Legislation in New Jersey

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Currently there are no standards in New Jersey for providing period products to students. It is common for a child to have to ask permission to see a school nurse, be triaged, and then subject to questioning before being granted a pad or tampon. This can be embarrassing and takes away from class time. The experience, especially for students living in poverty, serves to perpetuate stigma surrounding menstruation. In the United States, a country that recognizes that all children have a basic right to an education, it is critical that essential needs are met.

## Current State of Legislation:

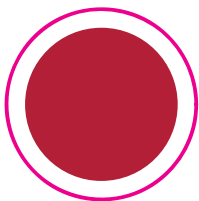
As of Fall 2022, Senate Bill [S1221](#) and Assembly Bill [A1349](#) have not passed out of committee. They would provide access to free menstrual products to all students in K-12 NJ schools, and in bathrooms in 6th-12th grades, with the Dept. of Education bearing the cost.



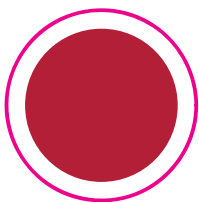
...THERE IS  
MORE WORK  
TO DO!

## Our push for statewide change

**Girls Helping Girls. Period.** is a founding member of Equality Period-NJ, a statewide coalition formed to address period stigma and fight period poverty through advocacy and policy change. The coalition's work has consisted of meetings with a range of legislators and their staffs to advise on creation, funding and eventual implementation of several laws. GHGP has worked with high school students to gather testimony in support of legislation. We have also advised school staff, students and parents from NJ, and across the country, on best practices for offering free period products in school bathrooms, regardless of whether doing so is mandated by any government.



"Ultimately the bill (A1349) needs to be passed for the sake of all students getting access to the best education possible in the safest and most supportive environment possible, while also remaining comfortable and not embarrassed about a normal bodily process." -Mark, High School Student



"As a nonbinary person born as a female, people already assume that I am a female which hurts me mentally and emotionally; having my period is very stressful because of this and having to go around asking people for pads just serves to others as a flag to check me as a woman. These are problems I wouldn't experience if menstrual products were put into the bathrooms of my school - not only into the women's bathrooms, but also all bathrooms including men's and non-gendered bathrooms." -Heissell, High School student

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