



## AB 230 (Reyes): Girl Scouts Period Equity Act

### SUMMARY

AB 230 expands on the Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2021 by requiring public schools serving third through fifth grades to adequately stock restrooms with menstrual products.

### BACKGROUND

The Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2021 ([AB 367](#), C. Garcia) was enacted to expand access to menstrual products in public schools serving sixth through twelfth grades across California.

Although tremendous strides have been made in increasing access to menstrual products across California, period poverty and the lack of access to period products continues to be an ongoing conversation.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services data shows a trend toward earlier onset of menstruation. Among women and girls aged 15-44 in the U.S. in 2013-2017, 10% reached this milestone by age 10 and 26% by age 11, according to a 2020 report. Among Hispanic women and girls aged 15-44 in 2013-2017, 10% had reached this milestone by age 10 and 31% by age 11.

Research shows that families have often struggled to pay for menstrual products as well as other basic necessities for their children each month. With a lack of access to menstrual products, students miss school or are less engaged in the classroom. These implications can leave

long-lasting impacts on a student. Missing just a few days in the classroom can lead to educational gaps, social disengagement, and feelings of isolation. Dealing with this from a young age can lead to significant influence into adulthood.

Currently, there are over 2,000 schools serving third through fifth grade students that are not required to provide menstrual products that serve young menstruators.

### THIS BILL

AB 230 amends existing statute to include students that were not previously covered under AB 367 (C. Garcia, 2021). The bill requires schools serving third through fifth grades to adequately stock menstrual products in school restrooms. AB 230 will continue California's strides towards period equity by expanding access to menstrual products in public schools to early bloomers.

### SUPPORT

Girl Scouts Troop 76 (Sponsor)

### CONTACT

Samantha A. Elizalde, Assembly Fellow  
samantha.elizalde@asm.ca.gov  
(916) 319-2050