

Alliance for Period Supplies

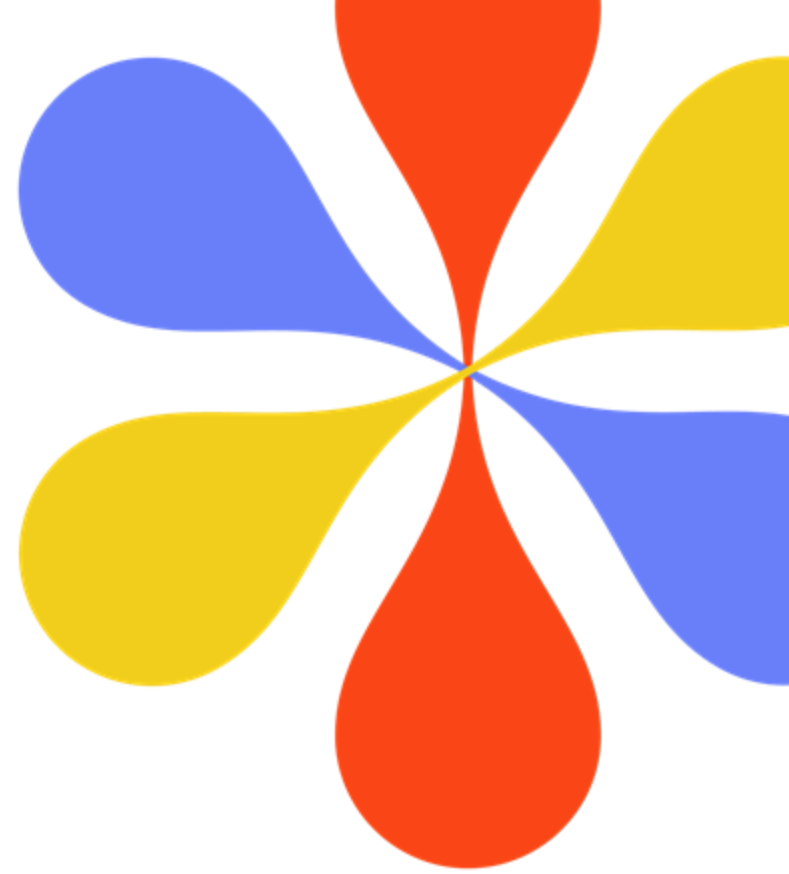
Period Poverty Key Talking Points



Alliance for Period Supplies

Talking Points

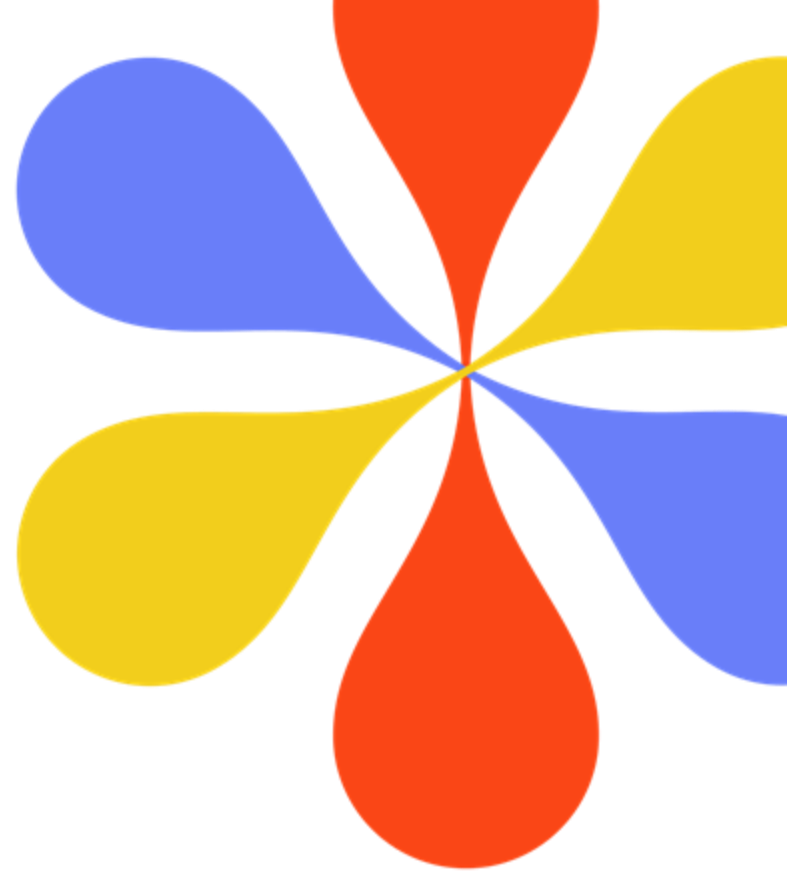
- **Alliance for Period Supplies is a national network of community-based nonprofits that are working to end period poverty.** It launched in 2018 as a program of National Diaper Bank Network.
- **140+ members** of Alliance for Period Supplies collect, warehouse, and distribute period supplies in local communities.
- **Core issues:** End period poverty; Eliminate state sales tax on period supplies; Ensure period products are freely available in public schools, public buildings, jails and prisons.



Alliance for Period Supplies

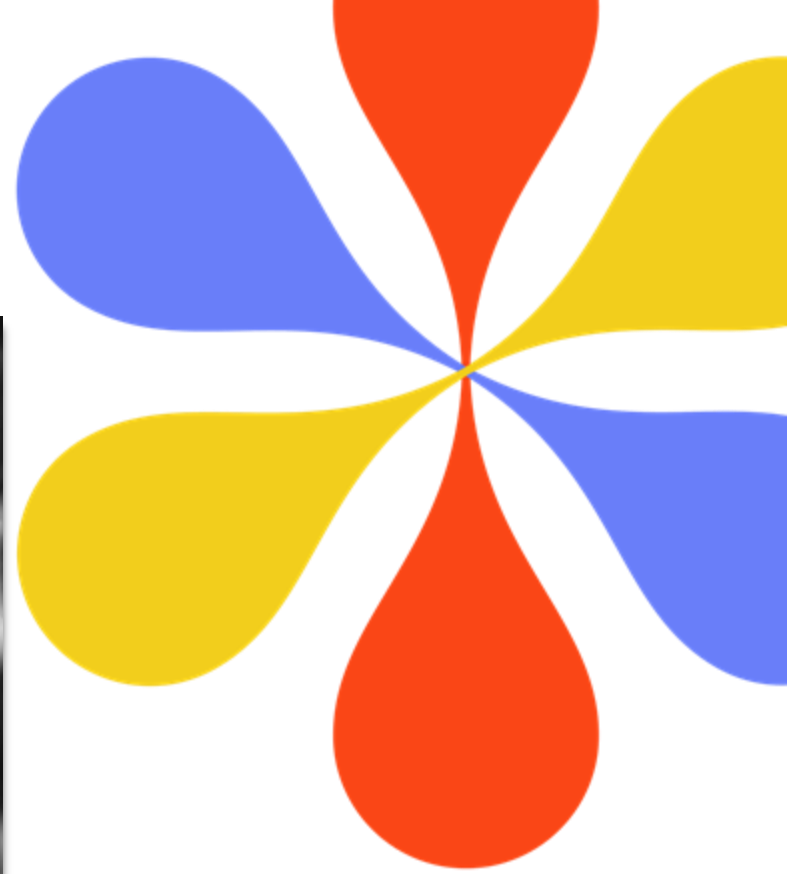
Talking Points

- We believe that no student should have to miss school, no adult should have to miss work, **and no person should have to miss out on daily life because they are unable to afford the material basic necessities they require to thrive.**



Period Poverty

Talking Points



Period Poverty

Talking Points

- **Period Poverty is a poverty issue.** The lack of material basic necessities can force women to stay home from work or school, depressing their wages as well as micro-economic productivity. It can also lead to false choices between the products they need to maintain good health or other necessities such as food, rent and/or utilities.
- **Period Poverty is a public health issue.** Individuals experiencing period poverty are sometimes forced to use proxy items such as toilet paper or unclean rags - even using products for longer periods of time than recommended which can have serious health implications.
- **Period Poverty is a gender equity issue.** The lack of accessibility and affordability of period supplies can prevent girls and young women from attending school or going to work which further widens the inequality gap in education and economic empowerment of women and girls.



Period Poverty

Talking Points

- In the United States, there are more than 71 million women, girls and people who menstruate between the ages of 12 to 44. Of these more than 71 million, **1 in 7 lives below the federal poverty line. That means there are millions of people who menstruate in our country who live in poverty and are unable to afford the material basic necessities they need to thrive.** People who live in poverty often face food insecurity, housing insecurity, transportation issues and other struggles every day. **Period poverty is yet another obstacle that prevents people who menstruate from reaching their full potential.**
- Research shows that **2 in 5 women**, as well as **one in four students** have struggled to purchase enough menstrual products. This lack of a basic necessity can force women to stay home from work or school, depressing their wages as well as micro-economic productivity. It can also force families to choose between the material products they need or food, putting their health in jeopardy.



Products in Schools

Talking Points



Products in Schools

Talking Points

- **No student should have to miss school, or have to miss out on daily life** because they are unable to afford the material basic necessities they require.
- Providing free access to period supplies in schools ensures that students who menstruate **can attend school regularly without the fear of missing classes** and that they have the opportunity to learn alongside their peers.
- More than 3 in 4 Americans **support providing free period products in public school restrooms.**



YouGov Poll

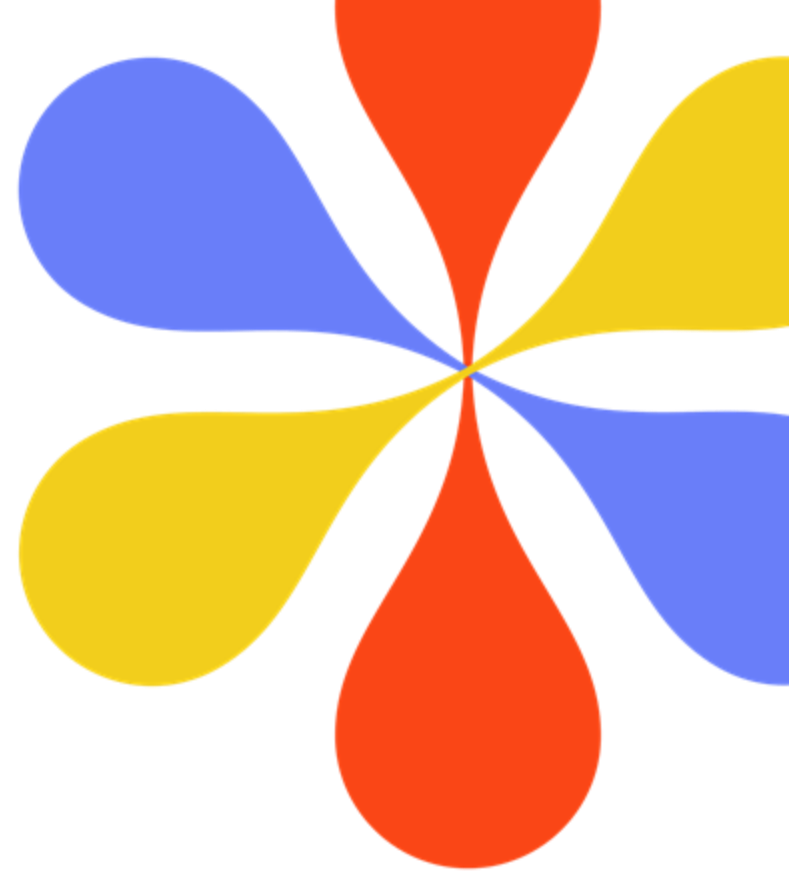
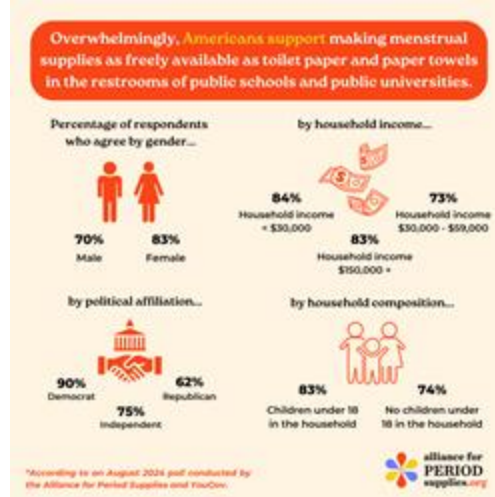
Talking Points

- Overwhelming, **77% of Americans support providing free access to period products in public school restrooms**, proving there is broad national consensus on this important issue.
- Findings based on an August 2024 study commissioned by the Alliance for Period Supplies. The nationally representative poll examined public attitudes on providing access to menstrual products in schools and public spaces.
- Universal support across gender, age, race, religion, political identification and education.



YouGov Poll

Talking Points

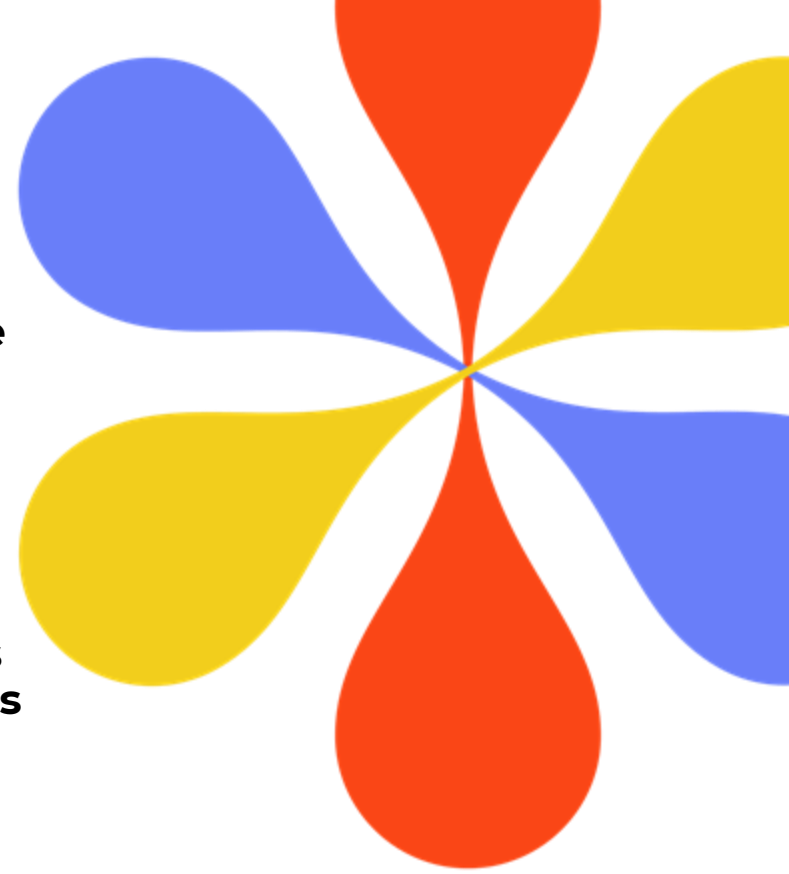


[Click here for access to YouGov Toolkit](#)

Products in Schools

Talking Points

- **Period supplies should be as freely available as toilet paper and paper towels.** Having period supplies readily available in schools helps to break down societal stigmas around menstruation by normalizing the need for these products in public spaces.
- Making period products available in schools **is a proactive and compassionate step towards ensuring that menstruating students can fully participate in their education** without facing unnecessary barriers or challenges related to period poverty.



Products in Schools

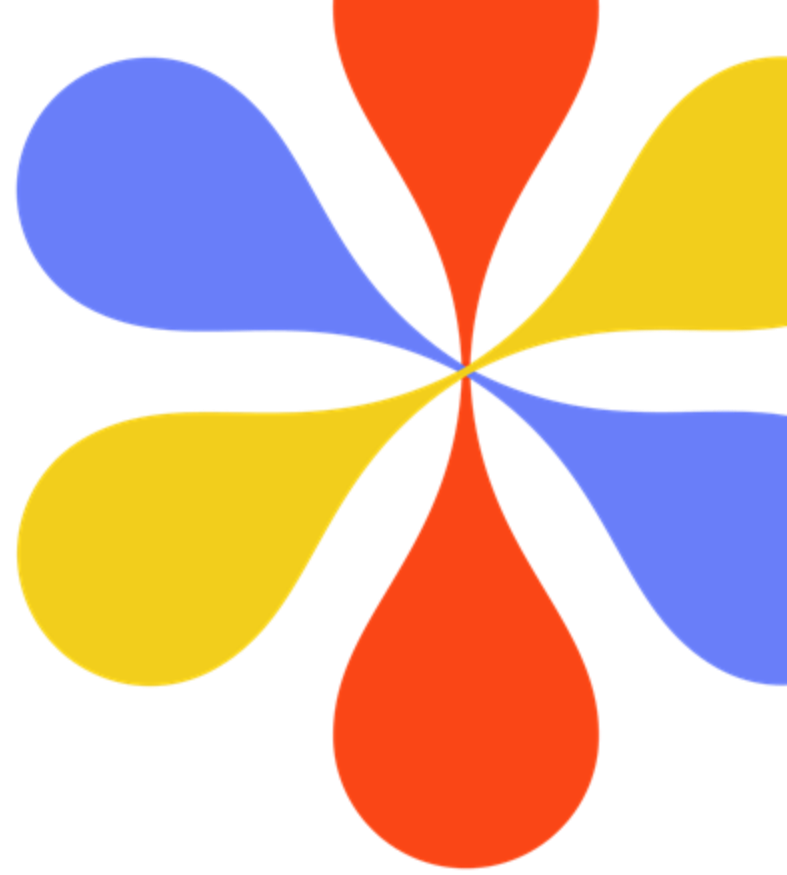
U.S. Facts

- **28 states and Washington D.C.** have passed legislation to ensure students who menstruate have free access to period products while in school.
- Overall, the details of period products in schools legislation vary widely between states. Some bills include state funding to make product available schools, while other bills have resulted in unfunded mandates.
- Download the printable period products in schools infographic [**here.**](#)



Period Products Tax

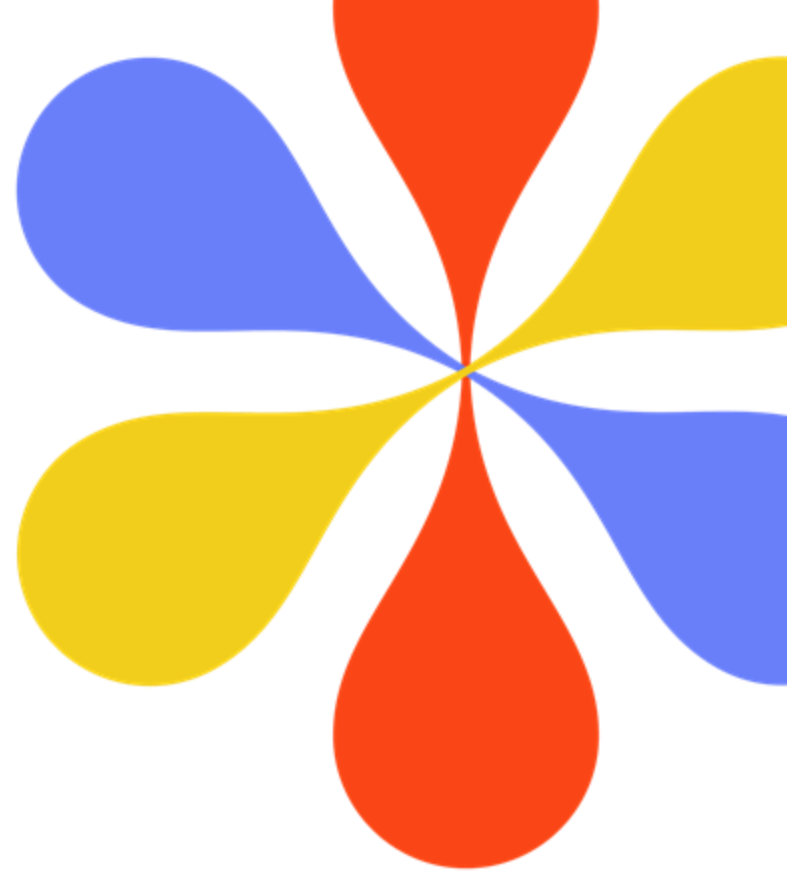
Talking Points



Period Products Tax

Talking Points

- **Period products are not a luxury and should not be taxed as such.**
- Taxing period products is unfair **and disproportionately affects low-income women, girls and people who menstruate.**
- **Menstruation is a natural occurrence for half of the world's population.** The imposition of taxes on period supplies, basic necessities of life, reinforces negative gender and social norms.
- The elimination of sales tax on these material basic necessities **helps all people who menstruate better afford the period products they require to reach their full potential.**



Period Tax

U.S. Facts

- **26 States and the District of Columbia have ended the sales tax on menstrual products,** those states are:

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

- 5 states do not have a state sales tax.
 - **20 states still tax menstrual products.**
- **Periods are not a luxury and should not be taxed as such.**



Ways to Take Action

- **Host** a period product drive.
- **Volunteer** at a local basic needs bank.
- **Contact** your elected officials **and advocate** for change.
- **Educate** friends and family on the issue of period poverty.
- **Share** on social media.

