

Supporting Students: Sex Education & Period Supplies

[HB 653](#) & [HB 654](#) - [Rep. Stevens](#) (D-46, Columbia)

[HB 225](#) - [Rep. Burnett](#) (D-19, Kansas City)

All students deserve sex education and the period products they need to stay healthy and succeed in school.

Having enough period products is essential to students' health and success in school.

- Many families with low incomes can't afford to buy the period products they need to stay clean and healthy.
- Many students report missing school or work because they do not have enough period products.
- This bill would ensure all public and charter schools provide tampons and pads in restrooms.

Every student deserves sex education — this should be a shared goal in Missouri.

- Data shows that comprehensive sex education works. Compared with students who receive abstinence-only education (sometimes called “sexual risk avoidance”), students who receive comprehensive sex education wait longer to have sex, have fewer partners, and use condoms and contraception more often.
- Leading public health and medical organizations — including the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics — all stress the need for sex education that includes messages about abstinence and provides young people with information about contraception for the prevention of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Decisions about teachers belong to local school administrators and school boards — not politicians in Jefferson City.

- Currently, Missouri law interferes in local school districts' decisions about educators who teach sex education.
- Legislators in Jefferson City do not take local schools' power to choose which qualified educators will teach math or science, and they should not do it for sex education.

Planned Parenthood's highly trained sexuality educators are *the* experts.

- Not every school has a qualified staff member who can teach sex education — and Planned Parenthood's expert sexuality educators can fill in this gap and serve students who may otherwise not receive any sex education at all.