



Waterloo Region District School Board

51 Ardelt Avenue
Kitchener, ON N2C 2R5
T: 519-570-0003
F: 519-742-1364
wrdsb.ca

June 11, 2024

The Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Smith,

At its meeting on April 24, 2024, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), agreed to write a letter of support regarding letters from Thames Valley District School Board dated April 5, 2024, and Ottawa-Carleton District School Board dated April 4, 2024 regarding menstrual products in schools.

Since 2019, the WRDSB has addressed period poverty in every school in our system, beginning with providing free period products in every school and alternative education site. In June 2021, our Board of Trustees sent a letter to the Minister of Education, echoing the Toronto Youth Cabinet's call for "the Province of Ontario and all 72 school boards to provide free and accessible menstrual products in all publicly funded Ontario elementary and secondary schools."

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) was pleased with the announcement in October 2021 that the Ontario Government would distribute six million free menstrual products per year to school boards.

As stated in the letter from Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, "Ensuring that menstrual products are procured, distributed and accessible for all Ontario schools on an ongoing basis will support equitable treatment of students and their engagement in learning. Securing a continuing partnership with Shoppers Drug Mart (or another provider) or allocating supplemental funding will also reduce any potential burden on the strained budgets of Ontario school boards."

With the Government of Ontario's menstrual product initiative set to expire, the WRDSB asks that you continue funding, supplying, and distributing menstrual products for the well-being of WRDSB and students throughout Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Weston".

Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
Local Members of Provincial Parliament