



# Oklahoma bill looks to bring free menstrual products to schools across the state



By: Shelby Montgomery, KOCO News

## OKLAHOMA CITY —

A new Oklahoma bill looks to bring period products to students across the state.

Senate Bill 219 will be introduced during this legislative session, which begins in February. If signed into law, it could bring products like tampons and pads to schools at no cost by next school year.

"We can provide toilet paper, and we can provide soap to our students. Why can't we provide these types of products?" state Sen. Nikki Nice, who authored the bill, said.

Nice said her goal is to remove the stigma around menstrual products, provide access to those in need and improve education.

"It has helped to curb absenteeism. It has helped for students to have better morale, and it helps them to focus on learning and not the embarrassment of them starting their cycle during the school day," Nice said.

Nice said one in four students struggle to afford the products.

Period OKC, a nonprofit, gave out 41,000 period products last year to students.

"That's a lot of products, and that's a lot of young people in need," Nice said. "This is a part of the circle of life, and we want them to be successful."

If the bill does pass and is signed into law, it will go into effect in July. It would cost about \$1.3 million each year.

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