



Student Led Action Committee (SLAC) – Colonia High

After years without menstrual products in the student bathrooms throughout the school, the Student Led Action Committee (SLAC) took the initiative to remedy the problem with the help of Period Partner.



SLAC at Colonia High

During some SLAC meetings, members brought up some complaints of their own experience having their periods in school. They realized this as an issue and began donation collections the last school year of 2021-2022. Their target remains the same: install dispensers and provide products for all students.

Mr. Long, the SLAC advisor, said that “the goal is to continue to try to make Colonia High more inclusive since the lack of these products are detrimental.”

SLAC will first begin a test run of the dispensers. For now, they are only available in the Business Wing and Language Wing girls’ bathrooms. The committee will send out a survey on the efficiency and satisfaction to students after a few months’ trial. Installing dispensers for more girls’ and gender-neutral bathrooms will come later.



Period Partner of HOSPECO

HOSPECO is a manufacturer of cleaning products. Period Partner is their organization advocating for universal access to free period products in all public restrooms. Colonia High is working with Period Partner to provide dispensers for student bathrooms.

Period Partner is currently supplying thousands of menstrual product dispensers for public restrooms. Their goal in helping Colonia High is to improve student health, reduce absentee rates, promote focused learning, and help reduce the stigma around menstruation. HOSPECO says, “By talking openly about menstruation and menstrual equity, together, we can strive to address the challenges people face around access to menstrual hygiene products.”

Issues

Some worries are if students misuse the products or if they take too much than necessary. However, some students do need to take extra due to financial insecurity. All people with periods have a general understanding of the expense and significance of having menstrual products. So, misusing the dispensers shouldn't be a main concern.

Although the newly installed dispensers have created a more comfortable environment in the bathrooms, refilling has been an issue. The dispensers can only be filled with a packaged product made specifically for the machine. So, all products that were donated and collected last year cannot be used in the dispensers. Instead, those products are in the Guidance Counseling Office.

SLAC is listening to students and Period Partner is joining the journey. Students should have access to menstrual necessities, if not, it risks their education and health. No student should have to worry if their period gets in their way of learning or coming to school.