

Eliza Cucchiara  
Annotated Bibliography

Source 1: <https://allianceforperiodsupplies.org/period-products-in-schools/>

alliance for PERIOD supplies. “Period Products in Schools - Alliance for Period Supplies.” *Alliance for Period Supplies*, 5 May 2022, [allianceforperiodsupplies.org/period-products-in-schools/](https://allianceforperiodsupplies.org/period-products-in-schools/).

This is an organization that focuses on period poverty nationwide, and has specifically done work advocating for products in school bathrooms.

- This is a useful source, because they have already done the work that I am trying to do. They also have put out surveys and found data about period products in schools.
- Limitation: This source does work around getting funding for menstrual products in schools, but we already have funding. We need to figure out what to do with that funding, and they have no information around companies that work with school districts.
  - I emailed them asking who they had partnered with in the past/ if they knew of any companies that could handle a SD as big as Philly. They have not responded yet.
    - Email: [info@allianceforperiodsupplies.org](mailto:info@allianceforperiodsupplies.org)
    - Phone: 203.821.7348 (Maybe I should call)

Source 2: <https://goauntflow.com/our-story/>

“Our Commitment to Menstrual Equity | Aunt Flow’s Story.” Aunt Flow, [goauntflow.com/our-story/](https://goauntflow.com/our-story/).

This is the website for the organization that the SD is planning on partnering with. It is useful for me to have proper information about the organization, and I used this website to make my argument against this company. It is interesting how they paint themselves in such a positive light.

- “Aunt Flow is committed to ensuring everyone has access to period products.”
  - They do not mention that their company focuses on emergency products, not products that can be relied on throughout the day. I think that they mean well (I really do) but I do not think that they are the right choice for a school district where students will be relying entirely on the products in their bathrooms.

Source 3: Lynette Medley <[lynettemedley@nomoresecretsmbs.org](mailto:lynettemedley@nomoresecretsmbs.org)>

Medley, Lynette. Issues with Aunt Flo. 6 Jan. 2025.

Ms. Medley is the head and founder of The Spot Period Hub (<https://www.nomoresecretsmbs.org/>). I have been working with her throughout this project. The Spot Period Hub is the nation’s first Menstrual Hub, and she has been a huge help and an amazing resource.

- Ms. Medley is an expert on period poverty, and on period product companies (perhaps the only one in Philadelphia). She was the one that gave me the idea to focus on this.
  - Specifically, she told us the issues that she saw with Aunt Flow. She had already been in contact with them, and shared that they were meant to be emergency products, rather than

products that could be relied on around the clock. I didn't know that, because the website makes it seem very period poverty centered, but Aunt Flow itself has said that it's purpose is not to alleviate period poverty.

- She also has so many ties when it comes to menstrual products, and her help has been huge. When we met with Dr. McDow, she did a great job advocating for us.

Source 4: Dr. Davies <[DAVIESSH@chop.edu](mailto:DAVIESSH@chop.edu)>

Davies, Shelby. 12 Sep. 2024.

Dr. Davis is an OBGYN at the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania. She is also on the board of The Spot, and is one of the first people I connected with. She has been my mentor, and is our professional advisor on the taskforce. She has been a really useful connection.

- She has provided professional opinion as an OBGYN who works with teens. She was our inside source, and gave us information about what the plan for menstrual products was. She had information that we could not find ourselves, because the School District was consulting professionals. She also read over our recommendation and provided her professional opinion on it before we brought it to the School District.
- She connected us with Dr. McDow, which really got the whole process started.

Source 5: State Rep Darisha Parker <[DParker@pahouse.net](mailto:DParker@pahouse.net)>

Parker, Darisha. Issues with Aunt Flo. 6 Jan. 2025.

Rep Parker has done so much work around period poverty in recent years. She brings attention to the issue every day, on what she calls "Tampon Tuesday". She has tried to get menstrual products in schools, and played a huge role in Shapiro's recent decision. She also spoke about period poverty at SLA last year.

- When we reached a roadblock late last year, where the district seemed to be going ahead with their plan, I reached out to Rep. Parker. She immediately wanted to set up a meeting with us in the School District, and advocated for the SD to go a different direction. They agreed after this meeting. Rep Parker has been an amazing contact.

Source 6: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2024/06/05/minnesota-period-poverty-free-menstrual-products>

Stroozas, Sam. "Minnesota OK'd Free Menstrual Products in Schools, but That Hasn't Solved the Problem." MPR News, MPR News, 5 June 2024, [www.mprnews.org/story/2024/06/05/minnesota-period-poverty-free-menstrual-products](https://www.mprnews.org/story/2024/06/05/minnesota-period-poverty-free-menstrual-products).

When I reached a roadblock, I began reaching out to other school districts to ask for information about what their cities had done to get menstrual products for their students. This source was very interesting, because it gave me valuable information about what happened in Minnesota. It also talked about other student groups doing similar work. In this article, different students were talking about what issues they had run into in their schools in Minnesota. They said that even though their schools had products, the

products did not have variety and were not thick enough for student use. These issues are exactly what we want to avoid, and this reinforced my ideas about why my work is necessary in Philadelphia.

Source 7: <https://www.nomoresecretsmbs.org/>

“No More Secrets.” Nomoresecrets, 2016, [www.nomoresecretsmbs.org/](http://www.nomoresecretsmbs.org/).

We have worked with Lynette Medley around this issue, but their website has also been very useful. It has so much information about period poverty, and a lot of that information is Philly specific which is super helpful. It also provides links about how people can get access to the products that they need. This helped me research how people need products could actually get them. This source is also very focused on variety and providing people with products that actually serve them, which is the work that I am trying to do. It is very useful in that regard. This website also talks about period poverty initiatives happening around the city and state, which is very useful to me in this work.

Source 8: <https://us.pg.com/>

Procter & Gamble. “Procter & Gamble.” Pg.com, 2023, [us.pg.com/](https://us.pg.com/).

This is Procter and Gamble’s official website. This is very useful, because it clarifies that while there seems to be many different brands that produce period products, most of them are actually owned by this company. Always and Tampax are the two most widely used brands, and both are owned by Procter and Gamble. This was super important to know when talking about product companies that could partner with the school district. It might actually be possible to sign a deal with the parent company, and get multiple brands in school bathrooms. Tampax only provides tampons and Always only does pads, but if a contract was signed with Procter and Gamble, both companies could be involved. That would allow for students to have more variety in their products.

Source 9: <https://www.phila.gov/departments/procurement-department/>

“Procurement Department | Homepage.” City of Philadelphia, 20 Apr. 2017, [www.phila.gov/departments/procurement-department/](http://www.phila.gov/departments/procurement-department/). Accessed 16 Jan. 2025.

When making deals with the school district, companies must put in bids. To sign a contract, the city must receive 3 bids and pick the one with the lowest price. I had no idea about this, but this was useful to know when figuring out the school district’s plan. This source explains this process, and outlines how companies put in bids. This made me realize that I should ask which companies had put in bids on period products, because someone must have. They can’t just choose Aunt Flow, because there is a whole process. Knowing if they are following this procedure, and if so, who they could possibly be talking too, could be very useful to my cause. I need to ask those questions.

Source 10: <https://thepadproject.org/our-partners/>

“The Pad Project Partners - NGO, Programmatic and Organizational.” The Pad Project, [thepadproject.org/our-partners/](https://thepadproject.org/our-partners/).

This is an organization that works to end period poverty. They partner with tons of organizations from all over the world to make sure that people have access to menstrual products. By looking at their partners page, I can see that they have actually partnered with some school districts. They partner with Mercer County, which is a pretty large school district. Although they do not partner with any school districts quite as big as Philly, I will reach out to them and see if they would be open to it. Even if they wouldn't be, they might no some other sources or companies that would be able to help.

- Email: [info@thepadproject.org](mailto:info@thepadproject.org)