



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Joe Wolf, Keene Lane Co.

Email: joe@keenelaneco.com

Mobile: 904.910.4454

Free Period Products To Be Available in all Secondary Title-I Schools in Duval County Public Schools

Renewing Dignity and Duval County Public Schools Partner to Reduce the Reported One in Four Teens Who Miss School Due to Struggle in Accessing Period Products

Jacksonville, Fla. — Aug. 9, 2023 — [Renewing Dignity](#), a local nonprofit organization focused on eliminating ‘period poverty’ through distribution, education, and advocacy, announces today in partnership with [Duval County Public Schools](#) (DCPS) that free menstrual health products are being made available in all DCPS secondary Title I schools.

One in four teenagers have reported missing school due to lack of access to menstrual health products, according to a recent study by [Thinx and PERIOD](#), thus detracting from learning. The lack of access also adversely increases stress and anxiety in teenagers and sometimes requires students to utilize unhealthy alternatives.

“Duval County is leading this important work in Florida,” said Jan Healy, founder and president of Renewing Dignity. “Thanks to DCPS’s leadership, the support of our school board, and specifically Assistant Superintendent of Operations Paul Soares, students in Duval County Title I secondary schools now have access to these basic health necessities, helping them to stay in school and focus on learning and growing – rather than worrying about how they are going to get through the day or week.”

Soares, who recently announced his plans to retire, said that all 30 public Title I secondary schools – including 17 Title I middle schools and 13 Title I high schools – will have menstrual health product dispensers and products beginning this school year. This includes pads, which will be available for free for students. A total of 96 dispensers are available across the 30 Title I secondary schools.

“Our district leadership has been in full support of this effort, and we are grateful for the grant assistance we have received to help address this need in our schools and our community,” said Soares. “Team Duval takes a ‘whole child’ educational philosophy, which aligns with ensuring

that students in our most under-resourced communities have access to basic health resources while in school.”

DCPS is one of the few school districts in Florida to provide this access to all secondary Title I schools.

In 2022, Renewing Dignity initiated a pilot program in two DCPS Title I schools to provide free dispensers and period supplies for students. Due to the overwhelming success of the pilot, DCPS expanded the pilot into additional schools and is now providing these free dispensers in all Title I secondary schools. This expansion was made possible by the Safe and Healthy Schools strand of the Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant, the purpose of which is to provide just-in-time options for students to encourage attendance and hygiene.

For more information about Renewing Dignity, visit www.renewingdignity.org.

About Renewing Dignity

Renewing Dignity’s mission is to eliminate “period poverty” through period product distribution, education, and advocacy. We believe that meeting menstrual hygiene needs is a human right that nourishes health and safety, dignity, equity, and social justice. We want to ensure that every woman, girl, and person that menstruates is empowered to manage her menstruation safely, hygienically, with confidence and without shame, where no one is limited by something as natural and normal as her period. For more information, visit www.renewingdignity.org.

About Duval County Public Schools

Duval County Public Schools is the 20th largest school district in the nation, educating more than 129,000 students in over 190 schools. Its mission is to provide educational excellence for every school, in every classroom, for every student, every day. Visit www.duvalschools.org to learn more.

###