

Declaration of Maria E. Juarez

I, Maria E. Juarez, hereby declare:

1. I am the parent of Evelyn and Adrian Juarez. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:

2. My son Adrian is 11 years old, attends Wilmington Middle School, and attended Gulf Avenue Elementary for kindergarten through 5th grade between 1995 and 2001. My daughter Evelyn is 18 years old, attends Harbor College, and attended Gulf Avenue Elementary for kindergarten through 6th grade between 1987 and 1994.

3. My daughter graduated from Gulf Avenue Elementary in 1994 without being able to read English. My son did not learn how to read English until his 5th grade year at Gulf. My daughter learned how to read very quickly once she moved on to junior high school but I think that if she had learned to read when she was supposed to at Gulf she would be doing much more.

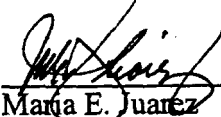
4. I think one of the main reasons that my children did not learn how to read at Gulf was because the teachers did not have enough books and had too many kids in their classes. In all of his years at Gulf Elementary I don't think Adrian ever had any of his own books to bring home. In his six years at Gulf Elementary, which ended in the 2000-2001 school year, I never saw Adrian bring a book home from school, although he often brought photocopies and packets of information home to work on. When I went to open houses during the 1998-1999 and the 1997-1998 school years at Gulf Elementary, Adrian's teachers would tell me that their classes were too big and they didn't have enough time to completely explain the material to their students. During these open houses in 1998-1999 and 1997-1998 I observed the class registers for Adrian's classes and many of them appeared to have more than 30 students in each class. I think that kids need to have time to work with their teachers in the classroom and that kids need to have books to take home and work with at home because they cannot learn everything in school.

5. Adrian has also been affected by being in a multi-track school because he is on track D and had to take the Stanford 9 tests in the first two weeks he came back to school in July. Without any time to prepare for the tests he didn't really have a clue as to what was going on and

1 had a hard time. How can they expect the kids to pass and do well if they bring them back to
2 school just two weeks before the test? I tried to move Adrian from track D to track A in the
3 1999-2000, 1998-1999 and 1997-1998 school years, but the school said that this was impossible
4 because there were too many kids already in track A. In Mr. Ibarra's class in the 4th and 5th
5 grade, Adrian came home from school more than twice not having worked in class and without
6 homework because the class had to change rooms with a different track was coming on.

7 6. Ms. Martin, my daughter's 6th grade teacher at Gulf, told me at the school open
8 house that she had to buy the supplies for her class activities. In this class my daughter got to
9 dissect a pig, make 4 foot tall mummies when studying ancient Egypt, and make models of the
10 California missions with materials that Ms. Martin purchased. Because the schools does not
11 provide this type of supplies, she never go to do things like that in any of her other classes at Gulf
12 or Wilmington. Ms. Martin had been a teacher in another state and she said that she couldn't
13 believe the school did not supply these materials for the kids.

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15 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
16 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 15th day of October, 2001 in
17 Wilmington, California.

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