

DECLARATION OF JOSE NEGRETE

I Jose Negrete, declare and state:

1. I am a Seventh Grader at Berendo Middle School in Los Angeles, California and a plaintiff in this lawsuit. This Declaration is based on my own personal knowledge and, if called upon to do so, I could and would competently testify to the matters set forth in this declaration.

2. The purpose of this declaration is to describe the poor conditions in Berendo Middle School, including the lack of textbooks, the filthy bathrooms and graffiti, the overcrowding and the inadequate and improper testing and instruction that the students receive.

3. At my school, we do not have enough textbooks for our major subjects. My English classes are taught from magazines that are handed out by my teacher. We read articles and plays from these magazines during class, but cannot take the magazines home because they must be shared with other classes. Our English homework, when we are given homework, is based on notes that we copy off the blackboard or from the magazines. We also have no history textbooks, and, any homework we receive is based on our class notes. The only one of my classes that is taught using a textbook is my math class, and our math books are old and in sorry shape. My mother has asked me why we don't have textbooks for our classes -- I don't know why, but I do know that the other students in my school don't have textbooks either.

4. The school's library has been closed for the past two months. A teacher told me that they are fixing the hallway near the library, and until they are finished, we will not have a library to use. Before the library was closed down, we would check out books from the library to read for my English class -- now, we do not even have access to the library books. I do not know when the library is scheduled to re-open.

5. Berendo Middle School only has one science lab that must be shared by the whole school. Because the lab is in high demand, my science class rarely gets to use the lab. Most of my science classes are taught in a regular classroom without any lab equipment.

6. The bathrooms in my school are filthy. They smell of urine and are covered with graffiti. There are no doors on the toilet stalls. Also, the lighting is bad, which makes the bathrooms dark and depressing. I hate using the bathroom at my school.

7. I also am concerned about the quality of teaching at my school. When I entered Berendo Middle School last year, I was put into an ESL class. I told the teachers in the class that I could speak English well and wanted to be in a regular class, but they told me that because I had been tested as requiring ESL instruction in First Grade, I must remain in ESL at Berendo Middle School. (During First and Second grades in elementary school I was in an ESL class, then transferred to an English-only class in the Third grade, and remained there until I finished elementary school.) In the ESL classes at Berendo the instruction is too basic. My vocabulary homework for an entire week was to learn the following list of words: In, Is, You, That, It, Ball, Doll, Train, Game, Toy. (I have attached the homework from my ESL class as Exhibit "A.") Even though the work was far too easy for me, no one at the school would agree to place me in a regular class. Finally, after two months, Alice Callahan of Las Familias Del Pueblo found me a lawyer who was able to get me placed into a regular class.

8. The instruction in Berendo's English-only classrooms is not much better. Some of my teachers do not even try to teach. We frequently are shown Hollywood movies during our regular classes -- the lights are turned off at the start of class, and a movie already is playing. (My teachers do not even rewind the movies between periods.) I have seen A Nightmare On Elm Street and other horror movies during my classes. If we do not want to watch the movies that are playing, we sleep. It doesn't make a difference -- I would have nothing to read even if I could see in the dark.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this 8 day of May, 2000 in Los Angeles, California.



Jose Negrete

Lesson 2

Dr. Fry's Spelling Book

Incense Words 6-10

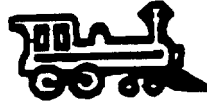
Picture Nouns Group 2

in



ball

is



doll



you

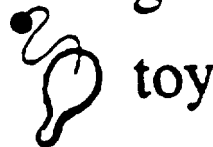
train

that

game



it



toy

Sentences and phrases to read or write

A doll is a toy.
It is for you.
The train is a game.

that ball
in a game
It is in a doll.

Word study Plurals "-s"

balls
toys

games
trains

dolls

Note: Sometimes a letter such as "l" in "doll" is doubled but still makes the same sound.

Phonics Short "i"

in

is

it

Note: The closed Syllable Rule states that when the syllable ends in a consonant the single letter vowel is short.

Handwritten: BORN 4
JIM