

1 Declaration of Maria Valle

2 I, Maria Valle, hereby declare:

3 1. I am a Plaintiff in the above-captioned action and if
4 called to testify could and would do so competently as follows:

5 2. I am a student at Dorsey High School and will be
6 starting the eleventh grade in September.

7 3. There are lots of problems at Dorsey that make it
8 really hard for me to get the education I want.

9 4. Lots of times we do not even have the basic materials
10 we need, like books for our classes. In my ninth-grade math
11 class, we did not have a textbook for the first month of
12 class. For the first month, we did absolutely nothing in
13 class and never got any homework. We did not get handouts or
14 even work on problems on the blackboard. The teacher just sat
15 and read the newspaper for the whole class period.

16 5. When we did finally get the books, the teacher would
17 take about ten minutes at the beginning of class to explain
18 how to do one problem. Then he would tell us to start working
19 on our homework. I did not learn very much at all in that
20 math class.

21 6. In my tenth-grade math class, we did not have the
22 new textbooks for the first three weeks of class. We had a
23 very good teacher, but it was very hard for her to teach out
24 of the old books we were using. They had torn pages and pages
25 that were missing altogether. They were also hard to read
26 because they were heavily tagged.

27 7. The conditions at Dorsey make it hard to learn. I
28 have seen rats in the classroom a lot. In one class, the
teacher set traps. Every other day the janitor would come in

1 to remove the traps that had dead rats in them. It makes me
2 feel very uncomfortable to be in a classroom knowing that
3 there may be rats crawling around, and it is very hard to
4 concentrate when you are thinking about when you might see a
5 rat.

6 8. Some of the classrooms are really cold in the winter.
7 In my French class last winter, one of the windows did not
8 shut. Sometimes the temperature felt like it was about 50
9 degrees. People would sit in the class in jackets and even
10 gloves. The teacher brought in some space heaters, but they
11 only helped if you were sitting right next to them. It had a
12 hard time learning when I was wearing a cold and could only
13 think about getting warm.

14 9. The French class was also overcrowded. For the first
15 two weeks of the class, there were about 45 or 50 students.
16 Only about 30 or 35 had seats, and the other 10-15 students
17 had to stand. Eventually the teacher moved some of them out
18 of the class. I know that some of them were able to get into
19 her other French class, but some people had to drop French
20 because she is the only French teacher in Track A.

21 10. Sometimes our classes are way too hot. Last semester
22 I was in a bungalow next to the Physical Education field.
23 There was no air conditioning in the bungalow, and in the late
24 spring the temperature got into the high 80's inside. When
25 it's that hot, it's very uncomfortable even with the windows
26 open. But during the spring they fertilized the field. The
27 smell was disgusting, so we had to keep the windows closed.

28 11. The bathrooms at Dorsey are disgusting. They are

1 dirty, have water on the floor, and are tagged. Generally,
2 there is no toilet paper. If you need to go to the bathroom,
3 you have to go to the teacher to ask for tissue or ask the
4 nurse if you can use her bathroom. After you go to the
5 bathroom, there is no soap and paper towels to wash up with.
6 Some of the bathrooms don't have hot water either.

7 12. It also seems like problems do not get fixed. For
8 example, there are two or three broken windows in the gym that
9 have not been fixed since I started at Dorsey in ninth-grade.

10 13. I would like to be a psychologist when I am finished
11 with school. Right now I am volunteering in a medical clinic.
12 Education is important to me and for my future career.
13 However, it is frustrating and depressing to try to get an
14 education at Dorsey because so many things get in the way of
15 my trying to learn.

16 I swear under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State
17 of California and the United States that the foregoing is true
18 and correct. Executed by me this 11 day of August, 2000 in
19 Los Angeles, California.

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21 Maria Valle
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