DECLARATION OF JOSCELYN K. MCCAULEY

I, JOSCELYN K. MCCAULEY, hereby declare:

- 1. I am the mother of Sharifa McCauley, who is a member of the plaintiff class in this action.
- 2. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:
- 3. My daughter Sharifa has been in third grade at Frank D. Parent Elementary School in Inglewood this year, and she will go into fourth grade there next fall. Also, my two younger children, Kalonji, who is three years old, and Niara, who is 20 months old, will attend Parent school when they get older. I know the school well because I volunteered there once a week last fall. participated in a school study circle, and am on the PTA Board and serve as the Room Parent Coordinator for the school PTA. Also, my mother works as an aide there every week.
- 4. My daughter has no books to bring home from school for homework; she has to use xerox copies her teacher gives her for her homework. Without a book for her homework, I have no way of telling what her assignments lead to or what progression her teacher has planned for her learning. Also, without a book, my daughter and I have no resource to use to look up questions she has when she's doing her homework.
- 5. According to a book review study performed by members of the Strategic Planning Committee, the seventh- and eighth-graders do not have science books to use in their classrooms. These children have to use photocopied papers for their science work both in class and at home. I don't ever want my children to have to try to learn without books anywhere.
- 6. The books my daughter uses in class are out of date. For example, one of the literature books the class uses was published in 1969. In addition, the primary math text the class uses was published in 1988. I have asked the principal why the math book was so old, and the principal told me the district adopts books on a seven-year cycle. I wrote a letter to the principal noting that more than seven years had passed between 1988 and now, and the principal responded by telling me the school district had not yet completed a new book adoption process. That answer does not satisfy my daughter's need for a current textbook.

- 7. I am so concerned about the lack of textbooks and the outdated textbooks at Parent that I take Sharifa to California State University at Dominguez Hills every Saturday for tutoring through the Excel program put on by the Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers. I should not have to turn to a community organization, however, to ensure that my daughter learns basic school subjects; her school should provide her that education.
- 8. I know that approximately 41 or 43 percent of the teachers at Parent are uncredentialed. It is absolutely unacceptable to me that such a high percentage of the teachers at my daughter's school do not have training in how to teach. You have to have a license to do hair, and you have to have a license to drive a car; you should have to have a license to work with a mind.
- 9. Last November, I found five boxes of brand new computers that had been sitting unused in the library all of the summer of 1999 through that November. I asked the principal why the computers were not in use, and she said the school was waiting for the district to send software for the computers. Even without the software, though, the students or teachers could at least be using the computers. The PTA set up two of the computers in the library so the students could use them. I expect the other three computers are still boxed and waiting in the library now.
- 10. The school was supposed to have been wired for internet use last summer, but no one has been able to use the internet still. The internet connection still is not completely functioning.
- The school does not employ a librarian. For the three years I've been involved in the school, the PTA has hired a parent to work in the library. But that parent has not been to library school and is not a librarian. The school itself, and not the PTA, needs to provide a trained librarian for the children.
- 12. The school library is in terrible shape. The number of books in the library is sparse, and until the PTA cleaned and reshelved and reorganized the library this year, the library was in a shambles.
- 13. The school bathrooms are in terrible shape. Often, they have no toilet paper. Last year, when my daughter was in second grade, she had an accident at school because she had no toilet paper to use to wipe herself. Since then, I have gone to the school to check to be sure there is toilet paper there. The PTA had to buy paper products at the beginning of this school year because there

were no paper supplies for the restrooms.

I believe in public education. I moved to this area so my daughter could walk to school like I did and go to her neighborhood school. I don't think I should have to send my daughter out of her neighborhood to get an education. I want all of the children in this State to be prepared to go to college. I don't care if they actually go to college or not—I just want them to have the option if they decided that's what they'd like to do. I can't imagine what's going to happen to our society if we end up with a bunch of people who can't think. I want the children in this State to be educated properly and college bound.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on June <u>30</u>, 2000 at Los Angeles, California.

Joseelyn McCauley

- 3 -