

1 **Declaration of Jasmine Donaldson**

2 I, Jasmine Donaldson, hereby declare:

3 1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to
4 testify I could and would do so competently as follows:

5 2. I am a ninth grader at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles, California.

6 3. Crenshaw is very overcrowded. My counselor would not let me take one of my
7 required classes, Education and Career Planning (ECP), because she said that all of the ECP
8 classes were too overcrowded. I was put into sewing class, something I don't need for college,
9 and now I have to take ECP during summer school. I think that is just horrible. My first period
10 P.E. class was so overcrowded this year that they had to switch at least 15 students out of it,
11 because there weren't enough lockers for all the students to have one. In my world education
12 class, there were at least 40 students at first. Many of them were sitting on the steps of the small
13 stage in the classroom, because we ran out of chairs and desks. My teacher made some of the
14 students transfer out of the class, because it was just too overcrowded. In my spanish class it was
15 also really overcrowded. At least five students didn't have desks to sit in. In health class, it was
16 also very crowded for the whole semester. I remember they brought in extra tables for students
17 to sit at, but still there was not enough space really and so people were sitting on stools behind
18 the teacher's desk, and at least five of the students were sitting on the counter tops.

19 4. I think that we have big problems at Crenshaw with our textbooks. I have had
20 four classes so far in which I didn't have enough textbooks, and this is just my first year at
21 Crenshaw. I just think that things should be different. I have really been upset about the fact that
22 we don't have any supplies and very few books. It makes it very hard for the teachers to assign
23 homework and for us to study the material.

24 5. In my second period world of education class, we didn't have any instructional
25 materials for about the first two months of school. When our books finally arrived, we did not
26 have enough for all the students in the class. At least five students did not have their own book.
27 I shared my book with my friend Robert so that he could see the materials also. Because we
28 didn't have our instructional materials, our teacher would photocopy materials for us to look at,

1 or he would just show us the materials from the teacher's manual he had, have us pass them
2 around, and then take them back after we were finished looking at them. We told the teacher
3 several times that we didn't understand how we could do our project, which was to tutor students
4 from other schools in the area, if we didn't have the materials first for us to learn from, and then
5 for us to use to teach other students. The books finally came, but, again, we still didn't have
6 enough.

7 6. In my honors English class, for about eight months during the school year we only
8 had about 11 literature textbooks, and that wasn't enough for all the students. They were all torn
9 up -- several had graffiti in them, two had spines broken, and some had missing pages in the back
10 or gum between the pages. We weren't allowed to take these books home without special
11 permission from the teacher, because the other classes had to use the books also. Instead of
12 giving us work from the book my teacher would just assign us vocabulary words, have us do
13 projects on the Internet, or tell us to watch a movie like Helen Keller and then write an essay
14 about it. When we had tests and quizzes the teacher went to Kinko's to make copies for us,
15 because he said the copier didn't work well. Just recently, my teacher received 25 more
16 textbooks for our class and all the other classes during the day that need them. Unfortunately,
17 these books are also used by the night school class, and so now some of them are gone again.

18 7. In my fifth period Spanish class, we didn't have textbooks until the end of the first
19 semester. Before the books came, my Spanish teacher photocopied pages from her book
20 whenever she could to give them to us. I just don't understand how we were supposed to learn
21 Spanish without a textbook.

22 8. In my health class, we also didn't have enough books for most of the semester.
23 There was one class set that we were not allowed to take home, and we all had to share — two
24 students to one book — because there weren't enough books. My health teacher just kept calling
25 to complain, and finally in about the last month of class we got new textbooks that we can
26 actually take home. I am glad we got the textbooks finally, but it really should not be like this.
27 Once we got the textbooks it was much better, because we could each read what the teacher was
28 talking about instead of sharing.

1 9. The bathrooms are really disgusting at Crenshaw High School. They smell
2 horrible. I never use them, because they are so gross. I just hold it until I get home. Also, they
3 lock all the bathrooms in the school during lunch and nutrition, except for the one at the front of
4 the school. There are more than 2,000 students at my school, and so if you want to go to the
5 bathroom there are really, really long lines. There is no toilet paper in the majority of the girl's
6 bathrooms, and the water barely comes out of most of the faucets. No water comes out at all
7 from several of the faucets. There is no soap in the bathrooms, and no soap dispensers on the
8 walls. Usually, there are no paper towels to dry your hands with. I bring hand sanitizers to school
9 with me, because I know I can't wash my hands at school. Many of the doors on the bathroom
10 stalls are broken in, slanting, or have fallen off completely. In the bathrooms I have been in on
11 the first floor one of the stall doors is completely off. On the third floor two of the doors are
12 hanging off. On the second floor, three of the doors close, but only two have locks. Several of
13 the toilets in these bathrooms either don't flush or are backed up.

14 10. I have seen more cockroaches than I can count, in the girls' locker rooms, the
15 hallways leading to gym, and in the gym. I saw a cockroach coming out of someone's locker. I
16 am afraid to change in the girls' locker room because of the cockroaches. Some of the students
17 tried to avoid the roaches by changing in the shower area, but they found roaches in there also.

18 11. In my Spanish class we had rotating substitutes for many of the days in the first
19 couple months of school when my permanent Spanish teacher wasn't there. The permanent
20 teacher was only there for about one or two days a week. Almost all of the substitutes did not
21 speak Spanish or know how to teach the subject. The substitutes did not know what to teach us,
22 and so all we did during class time was sit around, talk to other students, or do homework from
23 other classes. It was a waste of our time. Some days we watched movies in English that students
24 had brought in from home, like the ones you can rent at Blockbuster. The movies had nothing to
25 do with Spanish, and they were not educational. I feel like that put us behind to not have
26 substitutes during that time that could teach us the subject, and to have so many different
27 substitutes.

28 12. In my third period algebra class I remember that my teacher would buy supplies

1 for the class like graph paper, pencils, and other materials. I don't think that the teachers should
2 have to pay for materials out of their own money. The school should provide us with the
3 materials we need to learn algebra. In Spanish class my teacher had to buy scissors, glue, and
4 posterboard for us to do our projects.

5 13. There are three computers in my English class but only one of the computers
6 works. There are no printers in that class.

7 14. This year I wanted to participate in the cheerleading team, but each of us has to
8 buy our own uniforms, and they cost about \$1,000 for the day uniform and \$1,000 for the night
9 uniform. That is way too much money, and so I couldn't try out for the team.

10 15. I want to see things improve at Crenshaw High School. I think we deserve better.
11 I want all of the students at Crenshaw to have the supplies and books we need so we can learn.

12 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
13 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 14th day of June, 2001 in Los
14 Angeles, California.

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16 Jasmine Donaldson
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