

1 **Declaration of Christina S. Lopez**

2 I, Christina S. Lopez, 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 the mother of Carlos Santos. Carlos is a student at Edison-McNair Academy
6 in East Palo Alto. Carlos just graduated from the seventh grade in the 2000-2001 school year,
7 and will be returning to Edison-McNair in the fall for his eighth grade year.

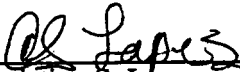
8 3. My son did not have enough books in his seventh grade class during the 2000-
9 2001 school year. He has told me several times how he has to go to the library to check out his
10 books in order to do his homework, and often he has to race there to beat the other students to the
11 library so that he will get a book. This is wrong. There should be enough materials for all the
12 students. The students should be able to take these books home to use to do their homework and
13 to have for homework. My child falls behind because he is not studying the way that I know
14 students in richer districts are able to study, with their own book that they can take home to use.

15 4. There is a really high teacher turnover rate at Edison-McNair. The majority of the
16 teachers at the school do not have their full credentials, and I don't believe they have enough
17 training to be able to teach the class and so often they just leave the school. Also, I know of
18 teachers who have used Edison-McNair as their training ground and in a way these teachers have
19 used the students, including my children, their as guinea pigs. When I say this I mean that the
20 teachers come to Edison-McNair with no training in the classroom and without their full
21 credentials, they take classes while they are teaching at the school, and then once they get their
22 full credentials we lose the teachers to another school where they are paid more. The state needs
23 to pay these teachers more money -- as much as their counterparts in other areas -- especially
24 because it is very difficult to afford housing in this area.

25 5. The type of schooling the children are receiving at Edison-McNair is truly
26 criminal. I would have expected that there might be a school like this in El Salvador, but not in
27 the United States. It is not right that students in East Palo Alto are not given the same resources
28 as their neighbors in Atherton and Palo Alto. These children are suffering an injustice and as a

1 result they are not prepared for high school, college, or to compete in this world. I am so angry
2 that the state has not done more to ensure that my children are receiving a good education that
3 will prepare them to be leaders in this state.

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5 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
6 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 15 day of August, 2001 in East Palo
7 Alto, California.

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10 Christina S. Lopez

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