

1 smell. In addition, during the rainy season, the steps leading up to the portable were flooded. My
2 son and the other students would have to wade through the water on the way out of the classroom
3 and would get very wet.

4 5. The portable is very loud because it is in the yard where recess is held. The school
5 holds staggered recesses because the school is too crowded to have all students at recess at the same
6 time. All the recess periods together last about four hours, and during that time, the sound of yelling
7 children and bouncing balls is very distracting to the students in my son's class.

8 6. The temperature in the portable is usually too warm, and students often complain
9 about being too hot in class. When it is hot outside, the classroom becomes really hot as well. There
10 is no air conditioning in the portable, and the windows barely open because they are almost entirely
11 boarded up. All the teacher can do to cool down the room is open the door to allow some
12 ventilation. But she cannot open the doors at recess because it will be too loud, so for the four hours
13 that recess is going on, it is really hot and stuffy in the class. In the winter, it is too cold to not use
14 the heater, but when the teacher turns the heater on, the room becomes unbearably hot inside.

15 7. Because there are not enough classrooms, some teachers must be "rovers." Instead of
16 having their own classrooms for the entire year like most teachers, rovers must use the classrooms of
17 those classes that are on vacation at any given time. During my son's November-December
18 vacation, a rover class used his classroom. His teacher had to spend time taking everything off the
19 walls of the room, and Michael had to empty out his desk before the class moved in. The time the
20 students and teacher spend moving into and out of the classroom is time they could have spent on
21 learning.

22 8. Because Hawthorne is overcrowded, the school is on a "multitrack" schedule. Each
23 month, one of the four tracks at the school is on vacation. I do not like the multitrack schedule
24 because I think it makes it difficult for Michael to learn. Last year, when Michael was at a different

1 school on a regular schedule, he learned very quickly and earned very high grades. This year, I have
2 not seen as much improvement in his abilities. I think it is because there are so many breaks in his
3 instruction. For example, his track was on vacation between March 9 and April 9, but one week
4 after returning to school, his class had another week off for spring break. I do not think he can learn
5 as well with so much time off during his school year. When he returns from spring break, he will
6 only have 2 ½ months of school left, and much of this time will be spent taking standardized tests; I
7 worry that he will not receive as much instruction as he needs before the year ends.

8 9. There are a few water fountains on the yard near Michael's classroom, but they are
9 dirty and usually only one works. Only a very little amount of water comes out of the fountain, so
10 many students, including Michael, bring water bottles from home.

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12 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
13 true and correct. Executed on July 17, 2001, at Oakland, California.

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Ana Alejandre

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