

1 **Declaration of Raushannah Perkins-Ali**

2 I, Raushannah Perkins-Ali, 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 student at Locke High School in Los Angeles. I attended Locke High
6 School for ninth and tenth grade during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years. I will be
7 returning to Locke in the fall of 2001 for my eleventh grade year.

8 3. In my second period English class first semester in tenth grade during the 2000-
9 2001 school year we did not have a teacher assigned to us. This meant that I had about five
10 different substitutes for about the first few months of school. A few times we did not have any
11 adult in front of the class at all because the administrators could not find a substitute to teach our
12 class. On the days when an administrator could not find a substitute to teach our class the
13 administrator would ask a teacher who had another class to come check on our class periodically.
14 Finally, one of our substitutes became our permanent teacher but he missed a lot of class to the
15 point where I and several of the other students were not sure if this man was really our permanent
16 teacher. He missed class at least once a week. That class was horrible. I did not learn what I
17 should have learned in English and it made me very sad. I worry that when I am applying for
18 college and when I want to get a job my vocabulary and spelling skills will not be as strong as
19 those of other people my age.

20 4. I also did not have a teacher during the entire first semester in my sixth period
21 science class in tenth grade, during the 2000-2001 school year. Instead we had a different
22 substitute almost every day. On at least five separate occasions the administrators could not find
23 a substitute to come teach our class, and so there was no adult in front of our classroom for the
24 whole period. Once I went up to the office and told the administrators we did not have a
25 substitute. The administrators said they were looking for a substitute, but a substitute never came
26 to our class. When the substitutes actually came to the class they did not really have anything for
27 us to do because there was no real lesson plan, and we did not have any books. Sometimes they
28 would give us worksheets to do or they would make up something for us to do. I did whatever

1 they assigned, and then someone in the office graded our assignments and gave us our final grade
2 for the class. I don't even know which administrator did our grades, but it was ridiculous because
3 there was no one in our classroom evaluating us. It was unbelievably horrible. I did not learn
4 anything really. During my second semester of science in my tenth grade year one of our
5 substitutes became our permanent teacher. However, we still did not have any books at all, and
6 we did not do a single experiment in that class. I am not entirely sure that our substitute who
7 became our teacher really knew how to teach science. Most of the time he would give us
8 worksheets to do in class. It was a real shame that I did not learn science. This teacher said to us
9 once that he didn't care if we learned anything because he was going to get paid anyway. I feel
10 like we had a babysitter, not a teacher.

11 5. We have a really big problem with textbooks at Locke High School. We did not
12 have enough books in my tenth grade English class during the 2000-2001 school year. The
13 teacher had a cart that he rolled around the school with books on it because he was not given a
14 permanent classroom. There were usually about 10 books on the cart but there were between 20
15 to 25 students in the class, and so we would share the books, or more often I would have to wait
16 for another student to finish the other student's work before I could use the book. This was an
17 incredible waste of time. These books were also in really bad shape. They were torn up on the
18 inside, pages were missing, and there was graffiti all over them. In my third period Spanish class
19 during tenth grade there were not enough books for us to be able to take books home with us.
20 My teacher only had a class set, and so she had to keep the books to use for the other classes she
21 had during the day. This meant that I could not take my Spanish book home with me at night to
22 study from or to help me with my homework. I believe this puts me at a great disadvantage
23 because I know that students in the suburbs are able to take their books home with them. It really
24 isn't fair that my school does not have instructional materials for the students. In my sixth period
25 science class during my tenth grade year we did not have any textbooks at all for the entire year.
26 This was terrible because we really did not learn any science in that class. In this class I did not
27 have a teacher for the first semester and so it was even harder for the substitutes to teach us
28 anything because they did not have materials to teach us from. I am very upset that we do not

1 even have basic materials such as textbooks.

2 6. We also had problems with textbooks the year before when I was in ninth grade
3 during the 1999-2000 school year. In my first period English class in ninth grade there weren't
4 enough textbooks for the class to use, and so my teacher did not use the textbooks for the entire
5 year. Instead my teacher would write words on the board for us to copy. Because we didn't have
6 books, we were not able to read out of a book like we should be able to do in an English class. I
7 feel like our reading skills really suffer when we don't have material to read and all we are given
8 is a worksheet. In my fourth period world history class in ninth grade we only had a class set of
9 books, and so if I wanted to take a book home, I had to ask for permission, and then I had to
10 bring the book back the very next day. Sometimes there would not be a book for me to take
11 home, because the teacher did not have enough books for his other classes. In my fifth period
12 math class in ninth grade we did not have any textbooks at all. My teacher had a math textbook
13 that he would make copies out of for us. But we weren't allowed to write on those copies during
14 class. We had to write in our notebooks, and then at the end of class we had to turn the
15 photocopies back into the teacher. I asked my teacher several times how we were supposed to do
16 math without any examples, models, or samples to show us how to do our work. My teacher
17 wrote examples on the board, but it was more difficult to work like that. For homework we had
18 to copy problems off the board. This took away from time during class where we could have
19 been learning more.

20 7. In my P.E. class I saw a rat during the 2000-2001 school year that just ended. It
21 ran by me as I was exiting the locker room. I was so scared that I was shaking. It is so gross that
22 there are rats in our school. I also saw roaches on the floor of one of my classes during the 2000-
23 2001 school year. It makes me sick to know that our school is not clean.

24 8. Locke High School is overcrowded. In my geometry class during tenth grade
25 during the 2000-2001 school year it was overcrowded for about two months during the first
26 semester. Students did not have a place to sit or they sat on chairs in the back that the teacher
27 brought in. Finally some of the students got transferred into another class. The same thing
28 happened second semester. I had to sit on a chair without a desk in the back of the classroom for

1 about two weeks. It was very uncomfortable. I had to hold my papers on my lap and copy notes
2 off the board and my writing would get really messed up. In my second period second semester
3 computer class in tenth grade some of the students did not have a computer to sit at because there
4 were too many students and not enough computers that actually worked. These students would
5 have to wait for someone else to finish before they could begin their work. During my third
6 period health class in ninth grade during the 1999-2000 school year it was very crowded, and I
7 did not have anywhere to sit for the first few days. Our seats were assigned, and there just wasn't
8 a seat for me to sit in because there were so many students. After the first couple of days, my
9 teacher let me sit in another student's desk who was absent. When that student came back from
10 being absent, my teacher had that student sit in the back of the classroom in a chair without a
11 desk for the rest of the year. There were about two other students who did not have a desk. They
12 had to write on their laps. I really felt bad for them because it is harder to concentrate and hear
13 the teacher when you are in the back of the classroom. It is also really difficult to write notes off
14 the board for a whole period without a desk.

15 9. Locke High School desperately needs to change. We don't have supplies or books
16 in many of our classes. The teacher turnover rate at the school is horrible. Sometimes teachers
17 are only at the school for half of the year or less. We should not have to go to a school like this.
18 Locke High School needs to change.

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20 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
21 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 21 day of August, 2001 in Carson,
22 California.

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24 Raushannah Perkins-Ali