

DECLARATION OF LISSETTE FUENTES

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2 I, Lissette Fuentes, hereby declare:

- 3 1. I am 16 years old and in the 11th grade student at Watsonville High School located
4 in Watsonville, CA. I also attended Watsonville High School for 9th and 10th
5 grades. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge, and if
6 called to testify I could and would do so competently and as follows:
- 7 2. A problem at Watsonville High School is overcrowding. It was too crowded last
8 year and this year they told us that there were more students than last year.
9 Classrooms are crowded and there are not enough seats in some of them. For
10 instance, in my first period United States History class there are not enough desks
11 for all students. I do not like this situation as it makes me feel bad for students
12 who must sit in chairs and try to do their work on their knees because they do not
13 have desks. The overcrowding also makes it harder to learn because the school
14 environment is crowded, noisy and distracting and teachers are often too busy to
15 answer students' questions.
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- 17 3. Additionally, students, including myself, are often late for class because with so
18 many students in the hallways, movement is slow and students are not able to get
19 from class to class in the amount of time we are given.
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- 21 4. There are times when classes like chemistry, physical education, geometry and
22 driver's education are full so that all students who need them cannot take them.
23 Students can sometimes only take classes required for graduation by signing up
24 for "zero period," an extra period that students can take early in the morning. My
25 friends have told me that sometimes zero period is not available and that the
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required courses are not offered in summer school making it even harder to take such courses and to graduate. The college preparation program is also overcrowded so not every student who needs these classes can take them.

5. Another problem is that there have not been enough textbooks at my school. My textbooks have been old and outdated. For instance, in one English class I had my uncle's textbook. I knew it was my uncle's textbook because it had his name written on the inside of the book with a year he had attended Watsonville High School printed next to it. My uncle has his own children now and graduated from my school at least 10 years ago!

6. I am uncomfortable with the situation at my school because I am there to learn but do not feel that I am learning what I need. I want to go to college but am concerned that I need a better education to reach this goal.

7. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 4, 2001 at Watsonville, California.


Lissette Fuentes