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

3. When I first started teaching at Fremont, it was two months into the semester, since A track students start school the first week of March. The students had had a series of substitutes until I got there and were behind in the program. Two months are significant for a year-round school because students have less instructional days during a semester than students on a traditional calendar and they basically lost 50% of their second semester. Because I was hired mid-semester, I didn't get much orientation or information.

5. The books I do have for my classes this year are not at the appropriate reading level for my students. Many of my students are English language learners and are just learning to read English. I should not have these students in my class because I don't have the proper qualifications and materials to teach them. Teachers who have a B-CLAD certificate are supposed to teach English-language learners and I don't have one. I wasn't even told by the school's administration that many of my students were English language learners. if I had known I would have adapted the curriculum and materials earlier in the semester. I realized one month

1 into the semester that tow of my classes were "sheltered", meaning a mix of English-language-  
2 learners and English proficient students.

3         6.       We don't have enough supplies at Fremont. Many new emergency credentialed  
4 teachers start late in the semesters and don't receive any orientation about how to get supplies. I  
5 spend over \$30.00 a month in various supplies such as folders for students to make portfolios,  
6 markers, pens, and I spend about \$50.00 a month in photocopies. I go to Kinko's about once a  
7 week. I have to spend my own money for supplies because the supplies are either not in stock at  
8 school, or it takes a long time to get anything. First of all, as new teachers, we don't get any  
9 training or information about the various ways we can order supplies or books. We are on our  
10 own to find out. Then, when you place an order for supplies, it takes about two months to get  
11 them, if you get them at all. By then it is too late. Our semesters are four months long, so if I  
12 need supplies mid-semesters I must buy them myself, otherwise I can't get them until the end of  
13 the semesters. My department, the social studies department, does a good job with stocking  
14 chalk or paper, but we don't have anything for creative projects or portfolios. I know some  
15 teachers whose departments don't have anything at all. I know it is the case for the drama and  
16 health departments because teachers told me and complained about it.

17         7.       Last year, during my first semester at Fremont I taught 11th grade U.S. history.  
18 When I got there I found less than a class set of books for all my classes. That meant that  
19 students had to share books in class and because I only had one set of books for all my classes,  
20 they could not take the books home to study or do homework. No one at school told me how to  
21 get more books so I don't know whether there were more books available. Many new emergency  
22 credentialed teachers start late in the semester and don't receive any orientation. During the year  
23 new teachers only have one meeting a month with an administrator and it is not enough for us to  
24 learn about the school and about the way by which we can get supplies or additional books.  
25 During my first year at Fremont, I spent \$270.00 for supplemental books that I felt were more  
26 interesting for my students than the books I had. I got the books from the social studies school  
27 services.

28         8.       This year my classes are overcrowded. In my government class I have 37 desks

1 for 43 students. Some students have to sit at my desk. During the first 2 weeks of school, some  
2 students had to stand up because we didn't have enough desks and chairs for them. At that time  
3 there were over 50 students in the class. After that some students just stopped showing up  
4 because they felt like there was no room for them at school. I think that overcrowding plays a  
5 large part in the high drop-out rate at Fremont. In addition, my classroom is too small to  
6 accommodate over 40 students and 37 desks. It makes it difficult to walk comfortably through  
7 the aisles and rows of desks. Having students sitting at my desk is also very disruptive and it  
8 makes it hard to lecture without the students being distracted. Because of overcrowding I can't  
9 give individual attention to all my students. I can't grade papers the way I'd like to because I have  
10 too many to grade. It is also changing the way I'd like to teach social studies. For instance I can't  
11 assign too many social studies essays because I wouldn't have time to grade them and give feed  
12 back to the students. Overcrowding creates a mood of frustration in the school. Students tell me  
13 that they feel cheated and alienated. Teachers feel frazzled. Also, many students fall through the  
14 cracks. We have so many students that we sometime miss that a student is struggling and needs  
15 attention. All six teachers one student has during the day could miss it. It happens all the time  
16 and students drop out of school.

17 9. The year-round multi-track schedule has negative consequences for teachers and  
18 students. We have a shortage of classrooms so there are many roving teachers at Fremont.  
19 When a teacher goes from classroom to classroom he/she loses instructional time because time is  
20 taken by classroom set up at the beginning of the class and teachers must end a little early to pack  
21 their materials for the next period. I have my own classroom this year but my class is used by  
22 another teacher during my conference period, after school and on Saturdays. The fact that  
23 different teachers use my classroom means that many supplies disappear or are used by another  
24 class. I receive the newspaper in my class and often it is gone before I can use it. This year, 3  
25 new teachers were roving for 3 weeks at the beginning of the semester until the school put up a  
26 new bungalow.

27 10. The overcrowding at Fremont High School really puts a toll on the school's  
28 facilities. The classrooms are always in use and they are rarely cleaned. The custodians merely

1 have time to empty the trash cans. The school is open from 7:00 am to after 9:00 pm. We have 2  
2 tracks on during the day until 3:30 pm. At 3:30 pm the school is used for adult school classes  
3 and after 6:30 pm the night classes start. The school is also open on Saturdays. When repairs  
4 need to be done they happen during class time and are really disruptive. The air conditioning  
5 unit in room 217 was fixed during class. It took two days and they worked on it for ½ the period  
6 twice. My class was disrupted when they inspected the classroom to instal internet wiring in my  
7 class. The wiring is in now but we still don't have access to the internet. Last year I was an  
8 assistant coach for the girls' basketball team. The floor in the gym was never cleaned up because  
9 the gym is always in use and we had to clean up ourselves.

10 11. It is really difficult for students to do research for their homework at Fremont  
11 High. The vast majority of classes never uses the computers because the waiting list to get into a  
12 lab is too long. I am able to use the lab once or twice in a semester because I insist and try to get  
13 my students in. Many teachers don't try anymore. I know that the majority of my students don't  
14 own a computer and have no access to the internet at home. Some students go to the public  
15 library for research because the school library doesn't have a sufficient number of books. The  
16 public library is pretty far from school, and without transportation, it is hard for students to go  
17 during the week. The school librarian has told me that we should have 17 books per student but  
18 we only have about 2.5 books per student. I end up going to the public library myself and I check  
19 out books with my own library card for the students to do research. I also bought a laptop and  
20 spent \$1,800.00 on it. I use it in class and at home for internet research. I would not have bought  
21 one if I had a computer in my classroom.

22 12. Overcrowding has a devastating effect on my students' self-esteem. When I was  
23 in high school, in the suburbs of Chicago, I had access to everything, from books to computers. I  
24 had great college counseling and I was given the skills to succeed in college. At Fremont kids  
25 are deprived of a good education. There aren't enough teachers to teach the students critical  
26 thinking skills because they can't give them individual attention in crowded classrooms. There  
27 aren't enough college counselors to inform them about college requirements. When at the  
28 beginning of the school year I ask my 10th grade students what they want to do in life, the

1 majority say that they want to go to college to become doctors, lawyers, engineers. The vast  
2 majority of these students won't be enrolled in a four year college when they graduate, and only a  
3 few will go on to community colleges. By the end of their four years at Fremont their hopes are  
4 gone, they feel underprepared and end up not applying.

5 13. My students regularly complain that they are late because they had to go to the  
6 other side of campus to find an open bathroom. We have few bathrooms for the students to use  
7 at Fremont and some of them are always locked.

8 14. There are so many students in the school that it takes over 5 minutes to go from  
9 one classroom to the other or to go to the cafeteria because you stand in the hallways behind a  
10 crowd of people. This situation creates a massive tardy problem.

11 15. Last semester I had ants in my classroom, in room 217. I told the custodians  
12 about the infestation but by the time the semester ended and I went off track they still hadn't  
13 come. I don't know whether they ever came to get rid of them because I am not in that classroom  
14 anymore. Recently I heard from my students that they saw a dead rat floating in the swimming  
15 pool. I don't know what happened to it but they were really disgusted by the incident.

16  
17 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United  
18 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 26 day of October, 2001 in Los  
19 Angeles, California.

20   
21 SARAH L. KNOPP

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PLTF 06510