

DECLARATION OF JASON REIMANN

I, Jason Reimann, hereby declare:

1. I am a teacher at John C. Fremont Senior High School in Los Angeles, California. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this declaration, and if called upon to do so, I could and would competently testify to the matters set forth herein.

2. The purpose of this declaration is to describe the conditions at Fremont High School, where I am in my third year as a teacher, and currently teach tenth and eleventh grade English and life skills on track "C."

3. Fremont High School lacks basic educational materials, such as books, for its students. In September 1999, when I began teaching at Fremont, I took over a class that had been taught by a long term substitute teacher and to my dismay, none of my students had any books for their use in class or at home. Approximately three weeks after putting in a request, I finally got a couple of class sets of the novels "1994" and "The Joy Luck Club", but there were not enough books for my students to take them home for reading or homework. There were only enough books for in-class use. Not having enough books for my students makes it very difficult for both me and my students because I am not able to assign reading from the novels we read in class for homework and my students are deprived of the opportunity of being able to read the assignments at their own pace. Students need to be able to take books home with them so that they can review and study what we have read in class and so that they can read and digest material at their own pace at home. I have not been able to assign reading assignments for homework to students who do not have books to take home. Moreover, it is difficult to assign homework with questions about the reading we have done in class, because my students do not have a book to refer to. The second year I taught at Fremont, my eleventh grade English classes did not have any books.

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1 4. Another problem at Fremont with regard to the textbooks is that I
2 have never had any books the first two weeks of the semester because it takes
3 at least that long for the books to be distributed to the teachers.

4 5. Overcrowding is a severe problem at Fremont High School. The
5 school is operated on a year-round, three-track schedule, where two "tracks" of
6 students and teachers attend school at once, while a third track is off session.
7 Even though Fremont runs year-round in an attempt to accommodate all the
8 students who attend the school, overcrowding still makes it very difficult for
9 the teachers to teach and the students to learn.

10 6. I have been forced to teach severely crowded classes for several
11 years at Fremont. For example, this year, in my 10th grade honors English
12 class, I have 41 students. I began the school year with 45 students, but luckily
13 during the fifth week of school some of the students were pulled from my class.
14 The classrooms at Fremont are simply not designed to hold that many students.
15 My classroom is pretty small and I already have 39 desks in my room. These
16 desks are all crowded into my small classroom and in order to make them all
17 fit, I need to place some of them very close to the board. I think that cramming
18 so many students into such a small space is unsafe in addition to being an
19 inconvenience. If all of the students who are currently enrolled in my class
20 show up, I am short two desks. In order to make sure that my students have a
21 seat, I have them borrow chairs from other teachers, but this is a disruption of
22 instructional time for me and my class as well as for the teacher and class from
23 whom I request the chairs. In the spring of 2000, I had approximately 45
24 students enrolled in my life skills class and because I did not have enough
25 desks for all of the students, some students were forced to stand up during the
26 entire class period. Eventually, some students stopped showing up for class.
27 At a minimum, each student enrolled in my class should have a desk.

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1 7. Overcrowding makes it very difficult for me as well as for the
2 students. For me, as class sizes increase it becomes very difficult to get to
3 know the students and to meet their individual needs. I would like to be able to
4 know my students better so I can provide them with the appropriate instruction
5 and assistance based on their individual skills and capabilities.

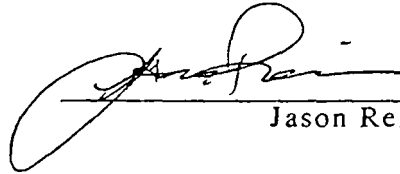
6 8. During passing periods, overcrowding presents problems as well.
7 The hallways and stairways are so crowded that it is very difficult to walk
8 through them without bumping into students. This presents safety issues
9 because students are so packed in they end up pushing and shoving each other
10 in order to get through the hallway to their next class and people get hurt.
11 Moreover, due to the severe overcrowding in the hallways, many students are
12 not able to arrive to their classrooms on time. I am teaching in the B building
13 this year and I regularly hear students walking in front of my classroom after
14 the bell has rung because they are still making their way through the crowded
15 hallway. This happens at the beginning of the period during silent reading time
16 and test taking time; times that are supposed to be quiet times. However, with
17 the external noise, it is very distracting and difficult for my students to
18 concentrate.

19 9. The restrooms at Fremont are also regularly crowded. I have
20 noticed that there are always female students lined up outside the bathrooms
21 near the entrance to the main building.

22 10. Another problem at Fremont is that there are cockroaches infesting
23 the school. The first year at Fremont I taught on the second floor of the main
24 building and every few days I would see cockroaches in my classroom. They
25 would be crawling on the floor and on the sink in my classroom. Sometimes
26 the kids would bring this problem to my attention. This was always very
27 disruptive because it would force me to stop the lesson I was giving and all of
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1 the students were focused on the roaches until they were taken care of. I have
2 also seen roaches on numerous occasions in the main building.

3 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct,
4 and that this declaration was signed on the 22 day of October, 2001, in Los
5 Angeles, California.

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8 A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Reimann', is written over a horizontal line.

Jason Reimann