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7 8	Attorneys for PLAINTIFFS	
	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
9	NORTHERN DISTRI	CT OF CALIFORNIA
10	NORTHERN DISTRI	er or each ordan
1.1	ALPHONSO GUERRERO, IRENE	No.
11	GUERRERO, A.G., a minor by and through his guardian ad litem ALPHONSO GUERRERO,	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES
12	JEFF MCDOUGAL, CINDY MCDOUGAL,	(HIDV DEMANDED)
13	A.M., a minor by and through his guardian ad litem, JEFF MCDOUGAL, CLAY PLUMMER, JENNIFER PLUMMER, J.P., a minor by and	[JURY DEMANDED]
14	through her guardian ad litem CLAY PLUMMER, JOHN REYNOLDS, CINDY	
15	REYNOLDS, P.R., a minor by and through her	
16	guardian ad litem JOHN REYNOLDS, PHILIP RODRIGUEZ, JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ, R.R.,	
17	a minor by and through her guardian ad litem PHILIP RODRIGUEZ, TANIA STREETE, B.S.,	
18	a minor by and through his guardian ad litem	
10	TANIA STREETE, K.G., a minor by and through his guardian ad litem SYLVIA	
19	GALLEGOS, L.L., a minor by and through his	
20	guardian ad litem JIM LARK,	
	Plaintiffs,	
21	V.	
22	BRENTWOOD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT,	
23	DINA HOLDER, LAURI JAMES, MERRILL GRANT, MARGARET KRUSE, MARGO	
24	OLSON, JEAN ANTHONY and DOES 1-30,	
	Defendants.	
25	Plaintiffs ALPHONSO GUERRERO, IRE	ENE GUERRERO, and A.G., a minor by and
26	through his guardian ad litem ALPHONSO GUE	RRERO (hereinafter "A.G."), JEFF
27	MCDOUGAL, CINDY MCDOUGAL, and A.M.	, a minor by and through his guardian ad litem
28	JEFF MCDOUGAL (hereinafter "A.M."), CLAY	PLUMMER, JENNIFER PLUMMER, and J.P.

1	a minor by and through her guardian ad litem CLAY PLUMMER (hereinafter "J.P."), JOHN				
2	REYNOLDS, CINDY REYNOLDS and P.R., a minor by and through her guardian ad litem JOH				
3	REYNOLDS (hereinafter "P.R."), PHILIP RODRIGUEZ, JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ, and R.R., a				
4	minor by and through her guardian ad litem PHILIP RODRIGUEZ (hereinafter "R.R."), TANIA				
5	STREETE and B.S., a minor by and through his guardian ad litem TANIA STREETE (hereinafter				
6	"B.S."), K.G., a minor by and through his guardian ad litem SYLVIA GALLEGOS (hereinafter				
7	"K.G.") and L.L., a minor by and through his guardian ad litem JIM LARK (hereinafter "L.L."),				
8	allege as follows:				
9	JURISDICTION AND VENUE				
10	1. Jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' federal law claims is founded upon 28 U.S.C. § 1331				
11	[federal question jurisdiction] and 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a)(3) [federal civil rights jurisdiction]. All				
12	claims for violation of Plaintiffs' rights under the laws and the constitution of the United States are				
13	brought pursuant to 42 U.S. C. § 1983.				
14	INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT				
15	2. This case arose in Contra Costa County, California and, pursuant to Rule 3-3(c) of				
16	the Local Rules of the Northern District of California, should be assigned to either the San				
17	Francisco or Oakland Division of the Northern District.				
18	PARTIES				
19	3. Plaintiff ALPHONSO GUERRERO is a resident of Contra Costa County,				
20	California. He brings this action on his own behalf and as guardian ad litem for his son, A.G.				
21	4. Plaintiff IRENE GUERRERO is a resident of Contra Costa County, California. She				
22	brings this action on her own behalf.				
23	5. Plaintiff A.G. is a minor and a resident of Contra Costa County, California.				
24	6. Plaintiff JEFF MCDOUGAL is a resident of Contra Costa County, California. He				
25	brings this action on his own behalf and as guardian ad litem for his son, A.M.				

Plaintiff A.M. is a minor and a resident of Contra Costa County, California.

Plaintiff CINDY MCDOUGAL is a resident of Contra Costa County, California.

She brings this action on her own behalf.

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9.	Plaintiff CLAY PLUMMER is a resident of Contra Costa County, California. He			
brings this action on his own behalf and as guardian ad litem for his son, J.P.				
10.	Plaintiff JENNIFER PLUMMER is a resident of Contra Costa County, California.			
She brings this action on her own behalf.				
11.	Plaintiff J.P. is a minor and a resident of Contra Costa County, California.			
12.	Plaintiff JOHN REYNOLDS is a resident of Contra Costa County, California. He			
brings this action on his own behalf and as guardian ad litem for his daughter, P.R.				
13.	Plaintiff CINDY REYNOLDS is a resident of Contra Costa County, California. She			
brings this act	tion on her own behalf.			
14.	P.R. is a minor and a resident of Contra Costa County, California.			
15.	PHILIP RODRIGUEZ is a resident of Contra Costa County, California. He brings			
this action on his own behalf and as guardian ad litem for his daughter, R.R.				
16.	JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ is a resident of Contra Costa County, California. She			
brings this act	tion on her own behalf.			
17.	R.R. is a minor and a resident of Contra Costa County, California.			
18.	TANIA STREETE is a resident of Contra Costa, California. She brings this action			
on her own be	ehalf and as guardian ad litem for her son, B.S.			
19.	B.S. is a minor and a resident of Contra Costa, California.			
20.	SYLVIA GALLEGOS is a resident of Contra Costa County, California. She brings			
this action as	guardian ad litem on behalf of her son, K.G.			
21.	K.G. is a resident of Contra Costa County, California.			
22.	JIM LARK is a resident of Contra Costa County, California. He brings this action as			
guardian ad li	tem on behalf of his son, L.L.			
23.	L.L. is a minor and a resident of Contra Costa, County.			
24.	Defendant DINA HOLDER ("Holder") is a teacher employed by the Brentwood			
Union School	District ("BUSD"). All actions alleged herein by Holder were taken under color of			
state law and in the course and scope of her employment with BUSD.				
25.	Defendant LAURI JAMES ("James") is the principal of Loma Vista School in the			

brought pursuant to § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Pugliese v. Dillenberg, 346 F.3d 937

The true names and capacities of defendants sued as DOES 1 through 30 are

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(9th Cir. 2003)

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33. At all relevant times set forth herein, all Defendants acted in concert and as the agent of one another.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

#### A. ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL PLAINTIFFS

- 34. Defendant Holder was a special education teacher in special day classes in the BUSD from 1996 to 2012. She taught at Loma Vista Elementary School until May 2010 and then was transferred to Krey School beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. She resigned from the BUSD as part of the settlement of a lawsuit filed in this court, Kevin Phelan, et. al. v. Dina Holder, et. al., case number C12-00465 LB.
- 35. Defendant Holder subjected the students in her classroom to ongoing verbal and physical abuse. The students were all disabled and some were nonverbal. They ranged in age from three to six.
- 36. At least as early as 2008, employees of BUSD, including James, Olson, Anthony, Kruse and Grant observed or had knowledge of information that students in Holder's classroom were being subjected to verbal and physical abuse. These employees had the ability to discipline Holder or terminate her employment, but they did nothing. Instead, the employees concealed the abuse from law enforcement officials and parents.
- 37. The employees referred to in the previous paragraph observed or had knowledge of information giving rise to a reasonable suspicion that Holder had committed acts of child abuse or neglect as defined by Penal Code §11165.3 against students in her classroom. These employees were mandated reporters as defined by Penal Code §1165.7, but did not report the abuse or neglect to an agency defined in Penal Code §11165.9.
- 38. On March 4, 2011, PAIGE LARK brought her son to visit Holder's class. Ms. Lark momentarily stepped out of the class. When she returned a few minutes later, she observed Holder and her son from a few feet away through a window in the classroom door. She observed Holder shaking her soon violently by the shoulders so that his head was moving "like a bobble head."
- 39. PAIGE LARK then quickly opened the door and ran into the classroom. She confronted Holder, who claimed not to know what the mother was talking about. Holder also said,

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"you'll never be able to prove anything."

- 40. Holder testified at a deposition that she was sitting behind the student with her arms at either side of the student. Holder claims she did not touch the student and that the student's head was moving because he was shaking his head "no." Holder claimed that her version of events was supported by her aide, Janice Lopez, who was sitting across the table from her.
- 41. At her deposition, Ms. Lopez testified that she saw Holder's hands on the student's shoulders, but only to "comfort" the student.
- 42. Ms. Lark complained to Ms. James and Ms. Anthony about the abuse of L.L. Ms. Anthony, on behalf of BUSD, wrote L.L.'s mother, stating that their investigation found no violation of policy or wrong doing on the part of district employees. In fact, neither Anthony, James, nor any other employee of BUSD conducted any investigation and none of them interviewed Lopez.
- 43. L.L.'s mother contacted the police, who did not conduct an independent investigation after learning of BUSD's "investigation."
- 44. During a portion of the 2008 to 2009 school year, K.G. was a pre-kindergarten student at Loma Vista Elementary School in Holder's Special Day Class. Throughout this period, he was subject to regular acts of child abuse or neglect and observed acts of child abuse or neglect being inflicted on other special needs children in his classroom, including, but not limited to, yelling, swearing and inappropriately aggressive physical contact. He was struck by Holder and he observed Holder hitting other children.
- 45. On May 19, 2008, K.G. came home very upset and began crying. He complained to his grandmother that he had been slapped twice at school by an adult and that he had a red welt on his cheek. The grandmother contacted K.G.'s mother, SYLVIA GALLEGOS, who immediately went to the school where she determined that the adult who had slapped her son was Holder. K.G.'s mother reported the incident to James in person that day.
- 46. James spoke to K.G. and his mother about the incident. K.G. had limited speaking ability, but he made did make a slapping motion toward his face. In addition, he was able to accurately describe Holder and the clothes she was wearing. James did not contact the police

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department and K.G.'s mother contacted the police on her own.

- 47. There were crucial misstatements and omissions in the information provided by school personnel to the police. James did not describe the slapping motion she saw and the aides claimed that Holder never raises her voice with children. In addition, James conveyed to the police that K.G. could not speak and therefore could not corroborate the battery. The District Attorney did not pursue the investigation given that there were no witnesses to the battery.
- 48. The physical and verbal abuse by Holder continued following these incidents. The conditions in Dina Holder's classroom were, to use the words of one of her aides, "horrendous."
- 49. Ms. Holder regularly referred to students as "little shits." She routinely yelled "shut up!" at students so loudly that she could be heard in an adjoining classroom. She was overheard yelling, "get your butt here." During "circle time," when the students read or play games, Ms. Holder yelled at or berated children who do not verbalize a response. She would "get in the face" of children who were struggling to speak and yell, "You can say it" or otherwise berate them.
- 50. Ms. Holder routinely forced very young children into chairs and moved them by grabbing their arms. One parent observed Ms. Holder pulling a child by the arm and dragging him across the floor of the classroom on many occasions. The staff psychologist and speech pathologist worked with Ms. Holder to adopt appropriate classroom management techniques, but she never adopted them. The school psychologist visited Holder's classroom once a week and observed physically aggressive behavior "pretty much every week."
- 51. Eventually, Ms. Holder essentially stopped teaching. She routinely arrived late only to sit at her desk playing computer solitaire and paying bills. She had no clear instructional program and was unprepared when she attended students' IEP meetings. Instructional aides, with no formal training in education, took over lesson planning and teaching duties. The aides, rather than Ms. Holder, did the instruction. These conditions were known to everyone on the preschool staff and, according to one aide, was "common knowledge" in the school.
- 52. The conditions in the classroom were extremely detrimental to students. One aide described the atmosphere as "chaotic and tense." She also stated that the children were "working out of fear." Speech and language therapists and aides observed that students stopped responding

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in Ms. Holder's classroom. Children who were supposed to be receiving assistance with language were instead regressing and stopped talking.

- 53. Psychologists, speech therapists, speech pathology aides, instructional aides and other employees reported to James, Anthony, Olsen, Kruse and Grant their concerns about verbal and physical abuse they observed in Holder's classroom. James, Anthony, Olsen, Kruse and Grant had the ability to discipline Holder or terminate her employment, but did nothing.
- 54. On May 25, 2010, Ms. Holder, three instructional aides were preparing the class for circle time. A student was cutting out paper for a project and did not comply with Ms. Holder's request that he join the rest of the class. Ms. Holder grabbed the student by the arm and pulled him out of the chair. The student fell to the ground and was lying prone on his side. Ms. Holder forcefully kicked him in the lower back or buttocks to move him toward the circle area.
- 55. The attack was observed by two of the instructional aides, who describe her as yelling aggressively at the student to get up and go to the circle. One stated that she kicked the student "like you would kick a dog out of the way." One of the aides yelled at Ms. Holder to stop and pulled her off of the student. Ms. Holder stopped kicking the student and as she walked away, she called him a "stupid son of a bitch." She said the epithet loudly enough that all of the instructional aides and the students were able to hear it.
- That afternoon, one of the aides contacted Connie Forrest, a Special Day Class 56. teacher in the room next door. Ms. Forrest is the former Coordinator of Special Education for the District. Ms. Forrest told the aide to "resolve the issue" with Ms. Holder directly. She advised the aide to contact the school principal and other authorities only if she could not "resolve" the issue with Ms. Holder.
- 57. Ms. Forrest then spoke to Ms. Holder. Ms. Forrest asked Ms. Holder if she intended to speak to the principal or J.P.' parents; Ms. Holder replied that she "would think about it."
- 58. The next day, one of the aides contacted a school psychologist who informed James of the incident.
- 59. The aides and all of the employees who learned of Holder's battery on the student were mandated reporters as defined by Penal Code §1165.7, but none of them reported the abuse or

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27 28 neglect to an agency defined in Penal Code §11165.9. In fact, the employees believed incorrectly that the instructional aides were not legally obligated to report abuse.

- 60. Kruse and James interviewed employees regarding the May 25 battery and conditions in Holder's classroom. That investigation documented the ongoing verbal and physical abuse to which Holder subjected her students.
- 61. BUSD issued a Letter of Unprofessional Conduct to Holder, concluding that her classroom was an unhealthy environment for children due to repeated incidents of verbal and physical abuse. Yet rather than terminating her employment, BUSD transferred Holder from Loma Vista School to Krey Elementary School.
- 62. James and Kruse informed the parents of the child who was battered by Holder on May 25, 2010 about the incident. They did not inform the parents that Holder had sworn at their son or that they had concluded that Holder's classroom was an unhealthy environment for her students because of ongoing verbal and physical abuse.
- 63. When the parents asked if the school intended to contact the police, Kruse stated that BUSD would not contact the police and would instead treat the incident as an internal, confidential matter. Dissatisfied with this response, the parents contacted the Brentwood Police Department. The police department conducted an investigation and contacted Kruse, James and other BUSD employees. None of the employees informed the police about the findings of the BUSD investigation that Holder had subjected students to verbal and physical abuse. Instead, the employees conveyed the impression that Holder was a good teacher and that the battery on May 25, 2010 was an aberrant act on Holder's part.
- 64. BUSD continued to assign very young students with disabilities to Holder's classroom after her reassignment to Krey Elementary. No one at BUSD notified parents of the findings of their investigation, the reasons for Holder's transfer to Krey or provided adequate monitoring to insure that the unhealthy environment in Holder's classroom would not continue. Holder continued to subject students to ongoing verbal and physical abuse and neglect.
- 65. On February 24, 2011, the District Attorney filed a criminal complaint charging Holder with Cruelty to a Child, a violation of Penal Code §273a. On October 6, 2011, Ms. Holder

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pled no contest to the charge and was sentenced to 4 year court probation, a 1 year child abuse treatment program, a requirement that she have an adult with her when dealing with children, and a protective order to stay away from the victim.

- 66. Kruse, James and Grant were aware of the criminal complaint and the plea of no contest. Even though she was no longer entitled to hold a teaching credential, they allowed Holder to continue teaching. They did not inform anyone, including BUSD staff or parents, of the charges and the plea of no contest.
- 67. The parents of the student injured in the May 25, 2010 incident filed a lawsuit filed in this court, Kevin Phelan, et. al. v. Dina Holder, et. al., case number C12-00465 LB. That lawsuit was settled on December 21, 2012. The plaintiffs agreed to accept the total sum of \$950,000 in exchange for a release of all claims against all defendants. In addition, Ms. Holder agreed to resign from employment on June 6, 2013 and to accept an immediate reassignment to a non-classroom setting.
- 68. The settlement of the Phelan lawsuit was widely reported in the media in mid-January, 2013. This was the first notice to parents of Holder's students that their children had been subjected to verbal and physical abuse in her classroom.
- В. ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO PLAINTIFF A.G.
- 69. A.G. was born on April 17, 2004 and has been diagnosed with autism. Alphonso and Irene Guerrero are his parents.
- 70. At the beginning of the 2010 – 2011 school year, A.G. was scheduled to attend kindergarten with Melissa Poole as his teacher. On the first day of class, A.G.'s parents were informed by employees of BUSD that, instead, A.G. would be taught by Holder. A.G.'s parents were assured by Margo Olsen that Holder held the required credential to teach children on the autism spectrum.
- 71. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that during the 2010-2011 school year, A.G. and other special needs students were subjected to ongoing verbal and physical abuse and neglect in Holder's classroom.
  - 72. Prior to the 2010-2011 school year, A.G. had been eager to attend and enjoyed

school. While in Holder's classroom, A.G.'s behavior underwent very significant adverse changes.
He became fearful, withdrawn and cried before going to school. These were behaviors that A.G.
had not previously displayed and were not previously observed by his parents. A.G.'s parents
became very concerned about his reaction to school, but A.G. was unable to describe what was
happening to him in Holder's classroom.

- 73. Concerned that A.G. was not progressing as he had in the past, A.G.'s parents met with Ms. Olsen, Brian Jones and other employees of BUSD on multiple occasions about their concerns regarding A.G. At no time did any employee of BUSD ever provide any information to the parents about Holder's history of abusing children in her classroom. This experience caused A.G.'s parents significant emotional distress.
- 74. A.G. was not able to understand the conditions in Holder's classroom were wrongful nor was he able to communicate the source of his distress to his parents. BUSD withheld information from the parents as to Holder's history of abuse and withheld critical information as to the conditions in Holder's classroom.
- 75. In mid-January 2013, A.G.'s parents became aware of news reports that Holder had pled nolo contendere to child abuse charges stemming from a May 2010 incident and that had had received a Letter of Unprofessional Conduct relating to the unhealthy conditions in her classroom at Loma Vista Elementary School.
- 76. Prior to mid-January 2013, A.G.'s parents did not suspect and had no reason to suspect that Holder had been the subject of prior complaints of her physically and verbally abusing her students. Nor did they know that Holder's classroom was an unhealthy educational setting for A.G. and a hostile environment based on his disability.
- 77. The discovery of the history of abuse by Holder caused A.G.'s parents additional emotional distress. A.G.'s parents were deprived of the ability to comfort their son or to provide appropriate counseling, medical and/or psychological care. The failure to advise A.G.'s parents promptly gave rise to the severe emotional distress in that they suffered a loss of trust in school officials and felt betrayed that they did not learn what their child had experienced at the time of the injuries when they could have responded immediately with appropriate parental support and care.

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### C. ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO PLAINTIFF A.M.

- 78. A.M. was born on March 25, 2004 and has been diagnosed with Recombinant 8 Syndrome. He has experienced significant delays in acquiring and utilizing verbal skills. JEFF MCDOUGAL and CINDY MCDOUGAL are his parents.
- 79. At the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, A.M. was placed in a classroom with Holder as the teacher for a portion of the day.
- 80. During the period A.M. was a student in Holder's class, A.M. was subjected to and observed other children being subjected to verbal and physical abuse and neglect by Holder.
- 81. A.M. began exhibiting unusually severe and frequent outbursts of aggressive behavior. A.M.'s parents observed that A.M. was not progressing as he had in the past, but they did not have reason to believe that mental or physical abuse was the source of his problems.
- 82. A.M.'s parents met with Margo Olsen, Brian Jones and other employees of the BUSD on multiple occasions about their concerns regarding A.M., but no BUSD employee ever provided any information to the parents about Holder's history of abusing children in her classroom. This experience caused A.M.'s parents very significant emotional distress.
- 83. A.M. was not able to understand that the conditions in Holder's classroom were wrongful and was unable to communicate the source of his distress to his parents. The BUSD withheld information from the parents as to Holder's history of abuse and withheld critical information as to the conditions in A.M.'s classroom.
- 84. In mid-January 2013, A.M.'s parents became aware of news reports that Holder had pled nolo contendere to child abuse charges stemming from a May 2010 incident and had received a Letter of Unprofessional Conduct relating to the unhealthy conditions in her classroom at Loma Vista Elementary School.
- 85. Prior to mid-January 2013, A.M.'s parents had no reason to believe that Holder had been the subject of prior complaints of her physically and verbally abusing her students.
- 86. The discovery of the history of abuse by Holder caused A.M.'s parents additional emotional distress. A.M.'s parents were deprived on the ability to comfort their son or to provide appropriate counseling, medical and/or psychological care. The failure to advise A.M.'s parents

promptly gave rise to severe emotional distress in that they suffered a loss of trust in school officials and felt betrayed that they did not learn what their child had experienced at the time of the injuries when they could have responded immediately with appropriate parental support and care.

- D. ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO PLAINTIFF J.P.
- 87. J.P. was born on October 28, 2004 and has been diagnosed with Cornella de Lange Syndrome. CLAY PLUMMER and JENNIFER PLUMMER are her parents.
- 88. During the 2008-2009 school year, J.P. was a pre-kindergarten student at Loma Vista Elementary School in Holder's Special Day Class. Throughout the year, she was subjected to regular acts of child abuse or neglect and observed acts of child abuse or neglect being inflicted on other special needs children in her classroom, including, but not limited to, yelling, swearing and inappropriately aggressive physical conduct.
- 89. At the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, the BUSD made a last minute change and assigned J.P. to a kindergarten class taught by Holder. During the 2010-2011 school year, J.P. was subjected to and observed other children being subjected to verbal and physical abuse and neglect by Holder.
- 90. J.P. suffered many unexplained injuries while a student in Holder's classroom. She sustained bruises on her arm consistent with being grabbed by the arm and on her knees and back. She also sustained deep scratches and a serious cut to her chin which left a permanent scar. She became much more aggressive and engaged in self-injurious behavior during the time she was a student in Holder's classroom. J.P. became withdrawn and nonverbal during the time she was a student in Holder's classroom. She continues to suffer emotional injuries as a result of her time in Holder's classroom.
- 91. The unhealthy conditions in Holder's classroom cause J.P. to suffer physical injury, pain and emotional distress. Holder and employees of BUSD compounded the injury by failing to promptly report the abuse to J.P.'s parents or to responsible officials. As a result, J.P.'s parents were deprived of the ability to comfort her or to provide appropriate counseling, medical and/or psychological care.
  - 92. The failure to advise J.P.'s parents promptly gave rise to both parents suffering

- severe emotional distress in that they suffered a loss of trust in school officials and felt betrayed that they did not learn what their daughter had experienced at the time of the injuries when they could have responded immediately with appropriate parental support and care.
- 93. Had mandated reporters employed by BUSD performed their mandatory duty to report the prior incidents of child abuse or neglect by Holder, the foregoing damages would not have been suffered.
- 94. J.P. was not able to understand that the conditions in Holder's classroom were wrongful and was unable to communicate the source of her distress to her parents. The BUSD withheld information from the parents as to Holder's history of abuse and as to the conditions in J.P.'s classroom.
- 95. In mid-January 2013, J.P.'s parents became aware of news reports that Holder had pled nolo contendere to child abuse charges stemming from a May 2010 incident and that she had received a Letter of Unprofessional Conduct relating to the unhealthy conditions in her classroom at Loma Vista School. Prior to mid-January 2013, the parents had no reason to believe that Holder had been the subject of prior complaints of her physically and verbally abusing her students.
- 96. The discovery of the history of abuse by Holder caused the parents additional emotional distress. J.P.'s parents were deprived of the ability to comfort their daughter or to provide appropriate counseling, medical and/or psychological care. The failure to advise the parents promptly gave rise to the severe emotional distress in that they suffered a loss of trust in school officials and felt betrayed that they did not learn what their child had experienced at the time of the injuries when they could have responded immediately with appropriate parental support and care.
- E. ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO PLAINTIFF P.R.
- 97. P.R. was born on July 4, 2006 and has been diagnosed with Chromosome 22q13 Deletion Syndrome. JOHN REYNOLDS and CINDY REYNOLDS are her parents.
- 98. During the 2009 to 2010 school year, P.R. was a pre-kindergarten student at Loma Vista Elementary School in Holder's Special Day Class.
  - 99. Throughout the year, she was subjected to regular acts of child abuse or neglect and

observed acts of child abuse or neglect being inflicted on other special needs children in her

classroom, including, but not limited to, yelling, swearing and inappropriately aggressive physical contact.

100. Among other incidents, P.R. was present on May 25, 2010 when Holder grabbed another student by the arm, brought him to the ground and kicked him repeatedly in the back while yelling "stupid son of a bitch."

- 101. Because of their age and developmental limitations, none of the students, including P.R., told their parents about the kicking incident or the child abuse and neglect that students suffered throughout the school year. James, other teachers, the director of special education, the school psychologist, speech therapists, speech pathology aides, instructional aides and other employees failed to report the incident as required by Penal Code §11166. No employee of BUSD informed the parents about earlier incidents of child abuse or neglect involving Holder or the unhealthy learning environment in Holder's classroom.
- 102. P.R.'s behavior changed drastically while in Holder's classroom. She became very aggressive and began engaging in behavior such as scratching. This behavior abated after leaving Holder's classroom, but she continues to suffer emotional injuries as a result of her time in Holder's classroom.
- 103. The unhealthy conditions in Holder's classroom caused J.P. to suffer physical injury, pain and emotional distress. Holder and employees of BUSD compounded the injury by failing to promptly report it to her parents or to responsible officials. As a result, her parents were deprived of the ability to comfort her or to provide appropriate counseling, medical and/or psychological care.
- 104. The failure to advise P.R.'s parents promptly gave rise to both parents suffering severe emotional distress in that they suffered a loss of trust in school officials and felt betrayed that they did not learn what their daughter had experienced at the time of the injuries, when they could have responded immediately with appropriate parental support and care.
- 105. Had mandated reporters employed by BUSD performed their mandatory duty to report the prior incidents of child abuse or neglect by Holder, the foregoing damages would not

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have been suffered.

- P.R. was not able to understand that the conditions in Holder's classroom were 106. wrongful and did not communicate the source of her distress to her parents. BUSD withheld information from the parents as to Holder's history of abuse and as to the conditions in their daughter's classroom.
- 107. In January 2013, the parents became aware of news reports that Holder had pled nolo contendere to child abuse charges stemming from the May 2010 incident and that she had received a Letter of Unprofessional Conduct relating to the unhealthy conditions in her classroom at Loma Vista School.
- 108. Prior to January 2013, P.R.'s parents did not suspect and had no reason to suspect that BUSD was intentionally failing to provide information concerning their daughter's injuries or the hostile and unhealthy education environment in Holder's classroom.
- 109. The discovery of the conditions in Holder's classroom caused the parents additional emotional distress. The parents were deprived of the ability to comfort their daughter or to provide appropriate counseling, medical and/or psychological care. The failure to advise the parents promptly gave rise to the severe emotional distress in that they suffered a loss of trust in school officials and felt betrayed that they did not learn what their child had experienced at the time of the injuries when they could have responded immediately with appropriate parental support and care.
- F. ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO PLAINTIFF R.R.
- 110. R.R. was born on March 9, 2006 and has been diagnosed with autism. PHILIP RODRIGUEZ and JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ are her parents.
- 111. From approximately March 2009 to May 2010, R.R. was a pre-kindergarten student at Loma Vista Elementary School in Holder's Special Day Class.
- 112. Throughout the year, she was subjected to regular acts of child abuse or neglect and observed acts of child abuse or neglect being inflicted on other special needs children in her classroom including, but not limited to, yelling, swearing and inappropriately aggressive physical contact.
  - 113. Among other incidents, she was present on May 25, 2010, when Holder grabbed

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26 27 28 another student by the arm, brought him to the ground and kicked him repeatedly in the back while yelling "stupid son of a bitch."

- 114. Because of their age and developmental limitations, none of the students, including R.R., told their parents about the kicking incident or the child abuse and neglect that students suffered throughout the school year.
- 115. James, other teachers, the director of special education, the school psychologist, speech therapists, speech pathology aides, instructional aides and other employees failed to report the incident as required by Penal Code §11166. No employee of BUSD informed the parents about earlier incidents of BUSD informed the parents about earlier incidents of child abuse or neglect involving Holder or the unhealthy learning environment in Holder's classroom.
- 116. R.R. suffered many unexplained injuries while a student in Holder's classroom. She sustained bruises on her arm consistent with being grabbed by the arm and on her knee and back. She also sustained a bite injury that was not reported to her parents by any school employee.
- 117. R.R.'s behavior changed drastically while in Holder's classroom. She became much more aggressive and began using profanity. This behavior abated after leaving Holder's classroom, but she continues to suffer emotional injuries as a result of her time in Holder's classroom.
- 118. The unhealthy conditions in Holder's classroom caused R.R. to suffer physical injury, pain and emotional distress. Holder and other employees of BUSD compounded the injury by failing to promptly report it to her parents or to responsible officials.
- 119. As a result, her parents were deprived of the ability to comfort her or to provide appropriate counseling, medical and or/psychological care.
- 120. The failure to advise R.R.'s parents promptly gave rise to both parents suffering severe emotional distress in that they suffered a loss of trust in school officials and felt betrayed that they did not learn what their daughter had experienced at the time of the injuries when they could have responded immediately with appropriate parental support and care.
- 121. Had mandated reporters employed by BUSD performed their mandatory duty to report the prior incidents of child abuse or neglect by Holder, the foregoing damages would not have been suffered.

- 122. R.R. was not able to understand that the conditions in Holder's classroom were wrongful or to communicate the source of her distress to her parents. BUSD withheld information from the parents as to Holder's history of abuse and as to the conditions in their daughter's classroom.
- 123. In January 2013, the parents became aware of news reports that Holder had pled nolo contendere to child abuse charges stemming from the May 2010 incident and that she had received a Letter of Unprofessional Conduct relating to the unhealthy conditions in her classroom at Loma Vista School. Prior to January 2013, the parents had no reason to believe that Holder had been the subject of prior complaints regarding her conduct with students.
- 124. The discovery of the history of abuse by Holder caused the parents additional emotional distress. The parents were deprived of the ability to comfort their daughter or to provide appropriate counseling, medical and/or psychological care.
- 125. The failure to advise the parents promptly gave rise to the severe emotional distress in that they suffered a loss of trust in school officials and felt betrayed that they did not learn what their child had experienced at the time of the injuries when they could have responded immediately with appropriate parent support and care.
- G. ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO PLAINTIFF B.S.
- 126. B.S. was born on June 16, 2005 and has been diagnosed with Down Syndrome. TANIA STREETE is his mother.
- 127. During the 2009 to 2010 school year, B.S. was a pre-kindergarten student at Loma Vista Elementary School in Holder's Special Day Class. Throughout the year, he was subject to regular acts of child abuse or neglect and observed acts of child abuse or neglect being inflicted on other special needs children in his classroom, including, but not limited to, yelling, swearing and inappropriately aggressive physical contact.
- 128. Among other incidents, he was present on May 25, 2010, when Holder grabbed another student by the arm, brought him to the ground and kicked him repeatedly in the back while yelling "stupid son of a bitch."
  - 129. Because of their age and developmental limitations, none of the students, including

- B.S., told their parents about the kicking incident or the child abuse and neglect that students suffered throughout the school year.
- 130. James, other teachers, the director of special education, the school psychologist, speech therapists, speech pathology aides, instructional aides and other employees failed to report the incident as required by penal code §11166. No employee of BUSD informed the parents about earlier incidents of child abuse or neglect involving Holder or the unhealthy learning environment in Holder's classroom.
- 131. B.S.'s behavior changed drastically while in Holder's classroom. He developed a problem with hiding under the table in Holder's classroom and often came home with bruises or scratches. B.S. continues to suffer emotional injuries as a result of his time in Holder's classroom.
- 132. The unhealthy conditions in Holder's classroom caused B.S. to suffer physical injury, pain and emotional distress. Holder and employees of BUSD compounded the injury by failing to promptly report it to his parents or to responsible officials. As a result, B.S.'s mother was deprived of the ability to comfort him or to provide appropriate counseling, medical and/or psychological care.
- 133. The failure to advise B.S.'s mother promptly gave rise to her suffering severe emotional distress in that she suffered a loss of trust in school officials and felt betrayed that she did not learn what her son had experienced at the time of the injuries when she could have responded immediately with appropriate parental support and care.
- 134. Had mandated reporters employed at BUSD performed their mandatory duty to report the prior incidents of child abuse or neglect by Holder, the foregoing damages would not have been suffered.
- 135. B.S. was not able to understand that the conditions in Holder's classroom were wrongful or to communicate the source of his distress to his mother. BUSD withheld information from B.S.'s mother as to Holder's history of abuse and as to the conditions in her son's classroom.
- 136. In January 2013, B.S.'s mother became aware of news reports that Holder had pled nolo contendere to child abuse charges stemming from the May 2010 incident and that she had received a Letter of Unprofessional Conduct relating to the unhealthy conditions in her classroom

1	at Loma Vista School.				
2	137. Prior to January 2013, B.S.'s mother had no reason to believe that Holder had				
3	subjected her son to the injury causing conditions described above.				
4	138.	The discovery of the conditions in Holder's classroom caused TANIA STREETE			
5	additional en	notional distress. She was deprived of the ability to comfort her son or to provide			
6	appropriate of	counseling, medical and/or psychological care.			
7	H. ALL	EGATIONS RELATING TO PLAINTIFF K.G.			
8	139.	K.G. was born on September 1, 2003 and has been diagnosed with			
9	Neurofibrom	atosis. SYLVIA GALLEGOS is his mother.			
10	140.	K. G. incorporates and hereby realleges by reference the foregoing paragraphs 44 to			
11	47.				
12	141.	In addition to the physical pain which K.G. suffered as a result of Holder's actions,			
13	he also devel	oped a fear of being hit. According to his mother, K.G.'s hands would sweat before			
14	going to scho	pol.			
15	142.	The unhealthy conditions in Holder's classroom caused K.G. to suffer physical			
16	injury, pain a	and emotional distress.			
17	143.	Had mandated reporters employed at BUSD performed their mandatory duty to			
18	report the prior incidents of child abuse or neglect by Holder, the foregoing damages would not				
19	have been suffered.				
20	144.	As a proximate result of Holder's actions as alleged herein Plaintiff K.G. has			
21	suffered physical injury and pain and emotional distress and suffering.				
22	I. ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO L.L.				
23	145.	L.L. was born on March 1, 2005 and has been diagnosed with Down Syndrome. JIM			
24	LARK and PAIGE LARK are his parents.				
25	146.	L.L. incorporates and hereby realleges by reference the foregoing paragraphs 38 to			

suffered physical injury and pain and emotional distress and suffering.

As a proximate result of Holder's actions as alleged herein, Plaintiff L.L. has

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1	148. The unhealthy conditions in Holder's classroom caused L.L. to suffer physical				
2	injury, pain and emotional distress. Holder and employees of BUSD compounded the injury by				
3	failing to promptly report it to responsible officials.				
4	149. Had mandated reporters employed at BUSD performed their mandatory duty to				
5	report the child abuse by Holder, the foregoing damages would not have been suffered.				
6	150. As a proximate result of Holder's actions as alleged herein Plaintiff L.L. has				
7	suffered physical injury and pain and emotional distress and suffering.				
8	FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF				
9	(Violation of Constitutional Rights, 42 U.S.C. § 1983; All Plaintiffs vs. Defendants				
10	Holder, James, Olsen, Anthony, Kruse and Grant)				
11	151. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege by reference the foregoing paragraphs 1 through				
12	150 inclusive, as if they were fully set forth herein.				
13	152. Defendant Holder violated minor Plaintiffs A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S., K.G.				
14	and L.L.'s rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution by actions,				
15	including but not limited to utilizing unjustified and unreasonable force against minor Plaintiffs.				
16	153. Defendant James, Olsen, Anthony, Kruse and Grant violated minor Plaintiffs A.G.,				
17	A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R. B.S., K.G. and L.L.'s rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United				
18	States Constitution by actions, including but not limited to, acting with deliberate indifference to				
19	the risk of harm to plaintiffs from Holder.				
20	154. Defendants Holder, James, Olsen, Anthony, Kruse and Grant violated Plaintiffs				
21	ALPHONSO GUERRERO, IRENE GUERERO, JEFF MCDOUGAL, CINDY MCDOUGAL,				
22	CLAY PLUMMER, JENNIFER PLUMMER, JOHN REYNOLDS, CINDY REYNOLDS, PHILIP				
23	RODRIGUEZ, JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ, TANIA STREETE and A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R. and				
24	B.S.'s rights under the Due Process Clause to the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States				
25	Constitution by actions, including but not limited to:				
26	a. Intentionally interfering with the parent child relationship by concealing information				
27	regarding the physical and emotional trauma inflicted on A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R. and B.S. by				
28	Holder.				

1	b. Intentionally interfering with ALPHONSO GUERRERO, IRENE GUERRERO,
2	JEFF MCDOUGAL, CINDY MCDOUGAL, CLAY PLUMMER, JENNIFER PLUMMER, JOHN
3	REYNOLDS, CINDY REYNOLDS, PHILIP RODRIGUEZ, JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ, TANIA
4	STREETE and A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R. and B.S.'s right to provide and receive nurture, support
5	and comfort regarding highly traumatic events.
6	155. As a proximate result of the violations alleged in paragraphs 34 - 154, Plaintiffs
7	have suffered damages as heretofore alleged.
8	
9	SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
10	(Discrimination in Violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act; Plaintiffs A.G.,
11	A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S. and K.G. vs. BUSD)
12	156. Plaintiffs A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S. and K.G. incorporate and reallege by
13	reference the foregoing paragraphs 1 through 155, inclusive, as if they were fully set forth herein.
14	157. Effective January 26, 1992, Plaintiffs A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S. and K.G.
15	were entitled to the protections of the "Public Services" provision of Title II of the Americans with
16	Disabilities Act of 1990. Title II, Subpart A prohibits discrimination by any "public entity,"
17	including any state or local government, as defined by 42 USC § 12131, section 201 of the ADA.
18	158. Pursuant to 42 USC §12132, Section 202 of Title II, no qualified individual with a
19	disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the
20	benefits of the services, programs or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination
21	by any such entity. Plaintiffs A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S. and K.G. were at all times relevant
22	herein a qualified individual with a disability as therein defined.
23	159. BUSD has failed in its responsibilities under Title II to provide its services,
24	programs and activities in a full and equal manner to disabled persons as described hereinabove,
25	including failing to ensure that educational services are provided on an equal basis to children with
26	disabilities and free of hostility toward their disability.
27	160. BUSD has further failed in its responsibilities under Title II to provide its services,
28	programs and activities in a full and equal manner to disabled persons as described hereinabove by

1	subjecting plaintiff to a hostile educational environment.				
2	161. As a result of BUSD's failure to comply with its duty under Title II, Plaintiffs A.G.				
3	A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S. and K.G. have suffered damages including special and general damage				
4	according to proof.				
5					
6	THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF				
7	(Violation of § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Plaintiffs A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R.,				
8	R.R., B.S. AND K.G. vs. BUSD)				
9	162. Plaintiffs A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S. and K.G. incorporate and reallege by				
10	reference the foregoing paragraphs 1 through 161, inclusive, as if they were fully set forth herein.				
11	163. Plaintiffs A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S. and K.G. are informed and believe and				
12	therefore allege that BUSD is and has been at all relevant times the recipient of federal financial				
13	assistance, and that part of that financial assistance has been used to fund the operations,				
14	construction and/or maintenance of the specific public facilities described herein and the activities				
15	that take place therein.				
16	164. By their actions or inactions in denying equal access to educational services and by				
17	subjecting plaintiffs A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S. and K.G. to a hostile educational				
18	environment, defendant has violated plaintiff A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S., K.G.'s rights				
19	under § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC § 794, and the regulations promulgated				
20	thereunder.				
21	165. As a result of BUSD's failure to comply with its duty under § 504 of the				
22	Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC § 794, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, plaintiffs				
23	A.G., A.M., J.P., P.R., R.R., B.S., K.G. have suffered damages including special and general				
24	damages according to proof.				
25	JURY DEMAND				
26	Plaintiffs hereby demands that this matter be tried to a jury.				
27	PRAYER				
28	WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs prays for judgment as follows:				

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1	1.	Compensatory damages to	Plaintiffs for injury, emotional distress and for medical			
2	expenses;					
3	2.	Punitive damages against Defendants HOLDER and JAMES;				
4	3.	Attorney's fees and costs; and				
5	4.	Such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.				
6						
7	Dated: Augu	st 21, 2013	HINTON ALFERT & KAHN LLP			
8						
9			By: /s/			
10			PETER W. ALFERT Attorneys for Plaintiffs			
11		24 2040	A ANN OFFICE OF HODE DOLLAR			
12	Dated: Augu	st 21, 2013	LAW OFFICE OF TODD BOLEY			
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14			By: /s/ TODD BOLEY			
15			Attorneys for Plaintiffs			
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JS 44 (Rev. 12/12) Cand rev (1/15/13)

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The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM)

purpose of initiating the civil do	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRÜCTIONS ON NEXT PAG	E OF THIS FO	ORM.)	-	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS ALPHONSO GUERRERO, et al.,			DEFENDANTS BRENTWOOD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT, et al.,		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff CONTRA COST  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Peter W. Alfert, Esq. Todd Boley, Esq. HINTON ALFERT & KAHN LLP 1212 Broadway, 16 <sup>th</sup> Floor 200 Pringle Ave., Suite 450 Oakland, CA 94612 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (925) 279-3009			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant CONTRA COSTA  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)		
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CIT	IZENSHIP OF PRI	NCIPAL PARTIES (PI	ace an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff			(For Diversity Cases Only) P1 ten of This State	TF DEF	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF incipal Place □ 4 □ 4
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	ten of Another State	2	
	-		ten or Subject of a preign Country	3 Greign Nation	□ 6 □ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	<u>- `</u>				
CONTRACT	TORTS		ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane  315 Airplane Product Liability  320 Assault, Libel & Pharmaceutics Slander  1330 Federal Employers' Liability  340 Marine  345 Marine Product Liability  355 Motor Vehicle  370 Other Fraud  371 Truth in Lend	ry - lity	25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 90 Other  LABOR 10 Fair Labor Standards Act 20 Labor/Management	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark  SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	□ 375 False Claims Act □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY	Product Liability 380 Other Persona Property Dam 385 Property Dam 385 Property Dam Product Liabil Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETIT	al age	Relations 40 Railway Labor Act 51 Family and Medical Leave Act 90 Other Labor Litigation 91 Employee Retirement	□ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS	■ 891 Agricultural Acts ■ 893 Environmental Matters ■ 895 Freedom of Information Act ■ 896 Arbitration ■ 899 Administrative Procedure
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	∆ 440 Other Civil Rights	acate	Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION 62 Naturalization Application	□ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS — Third Party 26 USC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision  ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	□ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities     Other     □ 448 Education     □ 550 Civil Rights     □ 555 Prison Condit     □ 560 Civil Detained     Conditions of     Confinement	Other 4	65 Other Immigration Actions		
	moved from	Reo	pened Anot (speci	3,7	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you 42 U.S.C. § 1983; 42 U.S.C. § 12132; 29 U.Brief description of cause: Violation of Fourth Amendment by public s	SC § 794	·		of hostile educational environmen
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTIOUNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.	_	DEMAND \$		if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):  JUDGE	•		DOCKET NUMBER	
IX. DIVISIONAL ASS (Place an "X" in One Box On	IGNMENT (Civil L.R. 3-2) ly) (X) S	SAN FRA	NCISCO/OAKLAN	ID () SANJOSE	() EUREKA
DATE	SIGNATURE OF AT			` '	. , ,
August 21, 2013	/s/ Peter W. Alfe	rt			

#### Case3:13-cv-03873-LB Document1-1 Filed08/21/13 Page2 of 2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

#### Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, (c) noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked. Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.

П.

- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.