



HOME | NEWS | MONEY | TECHNOLOGY | SPORTS | LIFESTYLE | CLASSIFIED | CARS | JOBS | REAL ESTATE | ST

NEWS

- ▶ [Local News](#)
- ▶ [National News](#)
- ▶ [Lodi Lode](#)
- ▶ [In School](#)
- ▶ [Tracy Metro](#)
- ▶ [Opinion](#)
- ▶ [Crime Stoppers](#)
- ▶ [Columnists](#)
- ▶ [Obituaries](#)
- ▶ [911 Calls](#)
- ▶ [Weather](#)
- ▶ ['Hoods 'n' Hamlets](#)
- ▶ [What's Here](#)

MONEY

- ▶ [Money News](#)
- ▶ [Business Journal](#)
- ▶ [AP Money Wire](#)
- ▶ [Stock Market](#)
- ▶ [Money Columnists](#)
- ▶ [Calendars](#)

TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ [Technology News](#)

SPORTS

- ▶ [Sports News](#)
- ▶ [Local Sports](#)
- ▶ [Outdoors](#)
- ▶ [Prep Sports](#)
- ▶ [Sports Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Sports Extra](#)

LIFESTYLE

- ▶ [Today](#)
- ▶ [Timeout](#)
- ▶ [Reviews](#)
- ▶ [Youthink](#)
- ▶ [Today's Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Movies](#)
- ▶ [TV](#)
- ▶ [Celebrations](#)
- ▶ [Weddings](#)
- ▶ [Engagements](#)
- ▶ [Anniversaries](#)
- ▶ [Good Taste in S.J.](#)
- ▶ [Vintage Lifestyles](#)
- ▶ [Travel News](#)
- ▶ [Health News](#)
- ▶ [Parenting](#)

CLASSIFIED

- ▶ [Announcements](#)
- ▶ [Automotive](#)

SJCOE wants money back

Education office gave districts too much

By Jennifer Torres
Record Staff Writer

Published Thursday, December 16, 2004

Special-education funds overpaid	
Two clerical errors led the San Joaquin County Office of Education to allocate about \$1.5 million more than intended to school districts for their special-education programs. Under a proposal to be approved in February, districts will return what they were overpaid over three years. This is what they owe (figures add up to more than \$1.5 million because districts also are repaying sums that were not the result of any error)	
Banta Elementary School District	\$8,901
Escalon Unified	\$2,909
Holt	\$5,716
Jefferson	\$79,865
Lammersville	\$15,417
Lincoln	\$251,634
Linden	\$77,325
Manteca	\$668,345
New Jerusalem	\$22,396
Ripon	\$78,133
Tracy	\$829,802
S.J. County	\$76,061

Eleven school districts must return a combined \$1.5 million in special-education funds that the San Joaquin County Office of Education mistakenly allocated to them earlier this year.

Districts found out about the error in late November, almost halfway through the financial year, and well after they had included the money in their 2004-05 budget plans. Under a proposal that superintendents are scheduled to approve in February, the districts will repay the money over three years.

"There was an overstatement of the amount of money that was available to be distributed to the districts," said James Thomas, deputy superintendent for business services for the county education office. "They built their budgets on a more optimistic revenue projection than what was real. They were overpaid."

Eleven school districts -- Banta Elementary, Escalon Unified, Holt Union Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, Lammersville Elementary, Lincoln Unified, Linden Unified, Manteca Unified, New Jerusalem Elementary, Ripon Unified and Tracy Unified -- make up the San Joaquin Special Education Local Plan Area.

Every year, the state sends money to the county office for special-education programs within the plan area. After the money is divided among a range of programs and a reserve account, school districts are given a portion of the remaining money, based on their enrollment, Thomas said.

Two accounting errors led the county office to distribute more "leftover" money than it should have.

The first error occurred in February, when \$325,000 that should have been deducted from special-education funds was instead added to them. That made county education officials think they had \$650,000 more than



Stockton, CA
Friday, Dec.



5 Day Forecast



7 Day News

BREAKING

[Conductor Killed Inside L.A. City](#)

[Soldier Charged After Having Him](#)

[Pilot Error Blamed in N.J. School](#)

[Security Guard Charged in Md. House](#)

[Report: Orchestra Public on](#)

[Search on for From Mother](#)

[Hyundai Recall for Elantra S](#)

[Officials Report Background](#)

[Obituaries in](#)

[Jurors Deliberate Human Smuggling](#)

[Government](#)

- [▶ Careers](#)
- [▶ Help Wanted](#)
- [▶ Employment Services](#)
- [▶ Self-Employment](#)
- [▶ Business Opportunities](#)
- [▶ Farm & Ranch](#)
- [▶ Legal Notices](#)
- [▶ Merchandise](#)
- [▶ Mobile Homes](#)
- [▶ Personals](#)
- [▶ Real Estate](#)
- [▶ Recreation](#)
- [▶ Rentals](#)
- [▶ Services](#)

COLUMNISTS

- [▶ Mike Fitzgerald](#)
- [▶ Francis Garland](#)
- [▶ Lori Gilbert](#)
- [▶ Eric Grunder](#)
- [▶ Jeff Hood](#)

COMMUNITY

- [▶ Community Info](#)
- [▶ Government Officials](#)
- [▶ Events](#)
- [▶ Stockton Cal](#)

RESOURCES

- [▶ College Loans & Student Loan Consolidation](#)
- [▶ Daniel Green Slippers](#)
- [▶ Sony & Panasonic Portable DVD Players](#)
- [▶ Coupons and Coupon Codes](#)
- [▶ Conference Call Service - \\$50/month](#)
- [▶ phentermine](#)
- [▶ Swords](#)
- [▶ Jeans](#)
- [▶ Zippo Lighters](#)
- [▶ Compare Travel Insurance](#)
- [▶ Epson Printer Ink Cartridges](#)
- [▶ Gebrauchte Autos](#)
- [▶ Piggy Banks](#)
- [▶ Travel](#)
- [▶ Spiele und Games](#)
- [▶ Lowcost web Hosting](#)
- [▶ alcohol rehab program](#)

RECORDNET

- [Subscribe](#)
- [Dining Card](#)
- [Ad Placer](#)
- [Record Design](#)
- [Job Opportunities](#)

CONTACT US

they actually did, Thomas said.

The second error occurred in May, when an employee mistakenly entered \$6.5 million instead of \$5.6 million into budget spreadsheets. Because of that mistake, the county office appeared to have \$900,000 more than it did.

"These were clerical errors, honest mistakes that should have been caught, but they were not caught," Thomas said.

Casey Goodall, assistant superintendent for business services at Tracy Unified, said the amount of special-education money coming from the county office this year seemed unusually high.

"They're kicking themselves, and we should have known, too," he said.

Since districts have already budgeted the money, it would be unfair to require them to pay it back this year, Thomas said. Instead, they have been asked to repay the money over three years, starting next year.

In the meantime, a loan from the county office of education and money from the special-education local plan area reserve fund will prevent a shortfall, Thomas said.

Dana Taylor, business manager for Jefferson Elementary School District, said the plan is fair.

"Of course we would have preferred that this had not happened, but the plan that has been presented is something Jefferson can work with," Taylor said.

Superintendents in February are scheduled to vote on whether to approve the plan.

Thomas said the county office of education's business department has improved its accounting procedures to help ensure a similar error doesn't happen again.

"We take this very seriously," he said. "We pride ourselves on having accurate data to give to our districts. We are mortified that this came out of our office."

* To reach reporter Jennifer Torres, phone (209) 833-1142 or e-mail jtorres@recordnet.com

::: Advertisement :::

[Children's N](#)

[Rev. Jesse Jac AIDS Dru](#)

[Hispanic Civ Leader Enc](#)

[Traffic Death on South's](#)

[Nativity Scen by Cust](#)

BREAKING WC

[Hearing Set fo Defense M](#)

[EU, Turkey Cyprus Co](#)

[Afghan Troc Prison in S](#)

[British M Criticizes Co](#)

[AP: Yush Poisoned b Diox](#)

[S. Africa Rip AIDS Drug](#)

[AP: Colomb Being Sough](#)

[Ukraine Con Visit Sam](#)

[Japan D Sanctioning N](#)

[Sharon Links State to I](#)

FEATU

[Stocktor](#)

[The Meetin](#)

[San Joaqu](#)

[Valley Hom](#)

[Valley Job](#)

[Newspaper in](#)



[Back to Top](#)



[Subscribe](#) - Subscribe online to have The Record delivered to your door every morning.

[Vacation hold](#) - If you are going on vacation, we can stop your newspaper while you are away.

[Ad Placer](#) - Place a classified ad today! [Click here](#)



Last modified: December 16 2004 07:53:36.

Copyright © 2004 The Record, All Rights Reserved. [Privacy Policy and Terms of Use](#). For more info contact webmaster@recordnet.com