

# LOS GATOS DAILY NEWS

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January 7, 2004

## Schools net a windfall

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The Cambrian School District will receive additional state funding for its special education department, under a new law written by Assembly member Joe Simitian.

Cambrian schools Superintendent Barry Groves said he is "ecstatic" at the news.

"It will save us hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next few years," Groves said yesterday.

The Children's Recovery Center of Northern California, which is on South Bascom Avenue in Campbell, feeds many special education children into the district. Many, if not all, of the children there are from outside

Santa Clara County. "It's asking the district to bear the brunt," Groves said.

Cambrian, like many other school districts statewide, is grappling with reduced funding and soaring education and teaching costs. Measure H on the ballot March 2 renews a parcel tax from several years ago for the district.

Cambrian is a smaller district primarily serving West San Jose and parts of Los Gatos and Campbell. It has four elementary schools, Bagby, Fammatre, Farnham and Sartorette, and Ida Price Middle School in San Jose.

The money from Simitian's AB 1649, which went into effect Jan. 1,

will reimburse the district's special education bills for "skilled nursing facilities," such as the Children's Recovery Center.

"2003 was a tough year to find funds for a variety of worthy projects," said Simitian, D-Palo Alto. "No matter how tough the times, it's important that we ensure these students have access to the resources they need to be successful."

An additional Simitian law reimburses the Ravenswood City School District \$1.33 million for special education costs incurred by complying with a court order. Ravenswood educates schools in the poorer areas of west Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.