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For Immediate Release

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## **DA Reaches Settlement with MicroSkills Vocational School; Students Paid Restitution**

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) announced today that a \$300,000 settlement has been reached with the defunct MicroSkills computer and technology training school in Miramar.

“When the school abruptly closed, students were left with nowhere to turn as they tried to recover their money,” DA Dumanis said. “This is a fair settlement that assures the students will get their tuition back.”

The settlement was signed today by San Diego Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Barton. In it, MicroSkills agreed to pay 71 students a total of \$184,385, a penalty of \$70,000, and \$45,615 in legal costs connected to the investigation. The District Attorney’s Office will begin sending checks to the students who are included in the settlement this week.

MicroSkills was a vocational school located at 7310 Miramar Road in San Diego that offered computer technical training. The school operated from September 1, 1999 until it closed unexpectedly on October 20, 2006. Students had paid tuition up front when enrolling in courses. Course work was expected to take several months to complete. Tuition included the cost to take examinations necessary to receive certifications in various areas of computer technology.

The school assisted students in applying for student loans and, in most cases, banks paid the proceeds of the student loans to the school directly. The San Diego District Attorney’s Office and the local office of the California Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Section received complaints from more than 300 students. The DA’s Office and AG’s Office filed a [complaint](#) in May 2007, alleging the former owners of the school failed to make refunds of unearned tuition to the students who did not receive the classes they paid for, in violation of an unfair competition statute.

More than 170 students received refunds from other sources or had their student loans forgiven in a total amount of \$2.9 million. The students who have not received refunds had completed their course study well before the school closed, so they were not eligible for refunds. MicroSkills LP did not admit wrongdoing as part of the settlement and cooperated with prosecutors to ensure students were reimbursed on a pro-rated basis for both classes they did not receive and the cost of exams they were not able to take.

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