

**From:** Bob Portal  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

While it is certainly no bad thing to allow schools more cash to buy computer equipment and software, I agree with what many have pointed out - namely that it is utterly ridiculous to allow Microsoft to flood the market with refurbished Windows PC's and Windows only software, thus leveraging even more of a monopoly for themselves even as they atone for their sins!

Apple is right to point out that education is one area where there is still healthy competition in the industry, and any such proposals from Microsoft would destroy Apple's chances of competing fairly in the education market.

If you add that to the fact that it would not be a punishment for Microsoft, but (quite the contrary) a brilliant way to expand their dominance with very little real expense to themselves, it has to be seen that there is no way this deal can stand. If they were to give cash to education, with absolutely no strings attached other than it be used to buy IT equipment and software, that may be fair. But it would be preposterous to cut Apple and other non-Windows systems out of the market.

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