



BECTA moots changes to e-Learning credits publication date: Jul 27, 2006

|
author/source: R Taylor

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)

BECTA is looking at changing the eligibility rules for spending of e-Learning credits (ELCs). At present there are strict guidelines about what qualifies as digital content. As it stands, hardware is not allowed unless it is a necessary part of a software package and even then, the software component must account for 80% of the products value.

Many schools argue that this precludes them from buying new hardware like digital cameras, dataloggers and robots. According to a newsletter from TagTeacher Net (funded by commercial publisher and software supplier Tag Learning) many schools are unhappy with this and claim to have sufficient electronic content already. BECTA has come up with some new proposals that would limit spending of ELCs to just software, and only that which has 80% curriculum content - i.e. no administrative or assessment tools. TagTeacher Net seem to think this is grossly unfair and believe that schools should not lose ELCs, even when they don't spend them.

Wake up! ELCs are a time-limited industry stimulus package, designed to help build capacity in the local software industry. Sure, it has helped schools buy lots of content, but eventually this is going to end and they are going to have to fund the purchase of digital content out of their own budgets. It's doubtful whether the local software industry would actually need a continuation of this programme had it not been for BBC jam. When e-learning credits end, schools who have relied on ELCs and hope that BBC jam will fill the void are in for a nasty surprise.

•
www.bbc.co.uk/jam

•
www.becta.org.uk

•
www.curriculumonline.gov.uk

•
www.taglearning.com

Related Articles:

- [School IT spending](#)
- [Schools could face budget cuts of at least 10% by 2014-15](#)
- [Becta's budget to be cut £45m by 2013](#)
- [Becta publishes new consultancy services framework](#)
- [Capita to deliver home access grant](#)
- [BECTA reported to the European Commission](#)
- [The end for Curriculum Online and e-Learning credits?](#)
- [BECTA spill on BBC jam](#)
- [Becta drops Studywiz from framework after Etech enters administration](#)
- [MOU, Vista, Office 2007 and Grava from Microsoft](#)
- [Data Collection and The Children Act](#)
- [BECTA governance](#)
- [£65k for new logo at Becta](#)
- [Promethean commits to Becta's common file format](#)
- [BECTA reports Microsoft to the OFT](#)
- [BBC jam and BECTA's Content Advisory Board](#)
- [BECTA](#)
- [New chair for BECTA](#)
- [BECTA continues to bamboozle](#)
- [Black Lion Investments raises £450k from investors](#)
- [No Child Left Behind and The Children Act \(TCA\)](#)
- [Schools ignore BECTA's advice](#)
- [BECTA's new boss](#)
- [School funding protected this year but axe falls on Becta](#)
- [5 suppliers approved for Home Access pilot](#)
- [The emerging ICT landscape](#)
- [UniServity gets more investment](#)
- [Interim chair of Becta appointed](#)
- [Microsoft and the OFT](#)
- [BECTA decide to try to become engaging](#)
- [Is Open Source really a cheaper option?](#)
- [HMRC owed £512k by Etech Group](#)

Copyright Meissa Limited (UK) 2010

 [Previous](#) | [Next](#)

 [Back to top](#)