

AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION INC  
 Form 4  
 December 17, 2008

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 Wilkins Harry T

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION INC [APEI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 111 W. CONGRESS STREET  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/15/2008

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 EVP, Chief Financial Officer

CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount (A) or (D) Price   |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01   | 11/18/2008                           |  | G <sup>(1)</sup>               | V 250 D \$ 0  | 112,359   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01   | 11/18/2008                           |  | G                              | V 250 D \$ 0  | 112,109   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01   | 11/18/2008                           |  | G                              | V 250 D \$ 0  | 111,859   | D  |                                   |

|  |            |  |                  |   |       |   |                           |          |   |   |
|--|------------|--|------------------|---|-------|---|---------------------------|----------|---|---|
| Common<br>Stock, par<br>value<br>\$.01 | 11/18/2008 |  | G <sup>(1)</sup> | V | 250   | A | \$ 0                      | 250      | I | By Son  |
| Common<br>Stock, par<br>value<br>\$.01 | 12/15/2008 |  | S                |   | 1,200 | D | \$<br>40.21<br><u>(2)</u> | 110,659  | D |   |
| Common<br>Stock, par<br>value<br>\$.01 |            |  |                  |   |       |   |                           | 46,611.5 | I | By Wilkins<br>Asset<br>Management,<br>Inc. <sup>(3)</sup> |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3,<br>4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Underlying<br>Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Nu<br>Deriv<br>Secur<br>Bene<br>Own<br>Follo<br>Repo<br>Trans<br>(Instr |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
|   |  |   |   | Code                                 | V (A) (D)  | Date<br>Exercisable  | Expiration<br>Date  | Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares                                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                      | Relationships  |
|---|--|
| Wilkins Harry T<br>111 W. CONGRESS STREET<br>CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414 | Director 10% Owner Officer<br>EVP, Chief Financial Officer |

## Signatures

Lisa G. Kessler,  
Attorney-in-Fact

12/17/2008

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

This transaction involved a gift of securities by the reporting person to his son, who shares the reporting person's household. The

- (1) reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by his son, and this report should not be deemed an admission that the reporting person is the beneficial owner of his son's shares for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.

The price of \$40.21 per share represents a weighted average of sales prices ranging from \$40.01 to \$40.56 per share. The reporting person

- (2) undertakes to provide upon request by the Commission staff, the issuer, or a security holder of the issuer, full information regarding the number of shares purchased or sold at each separate price.

The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership, except to the extent of his pecuniary benefit, of the securities owned by Wilkins

- (3) Asset Management, Inc., and this report shall not be deemed an admission that the reporting person is the beneficial owner of the securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.