

Wilkins Harry T  
Form 4  
January 19, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/17/2012

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

111 WEST CONGRESS STREET  
(Street)

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

CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount or Price   |  |   |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01   | 12/13/2011                           |  | G <sup>(1)</sup>               | V   | 110 D \$ 0  | 66,051   | D   |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01   | 12/13/2011                           |  | G <sup>(1)</sup>               | V   | 10 A \$ 0   | 360  | I By son <sup>(2)</sup>                               |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01   | 01/17/2012                           |  | S                              |   | 2,500 <sup>(3)</sup> D \$ 45.0992 <sup>(4)</sup>  | 63,551   | D   |

|  |                 |   |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Common<br>Stock, par<br>value<br>\$.01 | 25,111.5      I | By Wilkins<br>Asset<br>Management,<br>Inc. <sup>(5)</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 Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                                      | Amount or Number of Shares                                       |

## Reporting Owners

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

## Signatures

/s/ Harry T.      01/19/2012  
Wilkins

\*\*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).
- (1) This transaction involved a gift of securities by the reporting person to his son, who shares reporting person's household. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by his son, and this report should not be deemed an admission that the reporting

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person is the beneficial owner of his son's shares for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.

(2) The 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.

(3) The sales reported in this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 Sales Plan adopted by the reporting person on November 21, 2008, as modified on May 29, 2009 and November 23, 2010, which is intended to comply with Rule 10b5-1.

(4) The price of \$45.0992 per share represents a weighted average of sales prices ranging from \$44.8211 to \$45.50 per share. The reporting person 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.

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

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