Gibbons Peter W Form 4 January 21, 2009

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

See Instruction

1(b).

(Last)

Check this box

if no longer

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

SECURITIES

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Gibbons Peter W

(First)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

AMERICAN PUBLIC **EDUCATION INC [APEI]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 01/16/2009

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

(Middle)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

OMB APPROVAL

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

January 31, Expires: 2005

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

(Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner

Other (specify X_ Officer (give title below) SVP, Chief Admin. Officer 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

111 W. CONGRESS STREET

(City)	(State) (Z	Zip) Table	I - Non-Do	erivative S	Securi	ities Acq	quired, Disposed o	of, or Beneficial	ly 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 on(A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
			Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)		
Common Stock, par value \$.01	01/16/2009		M	6,079	A	\$ 1.05	38,497	D	
Common Stock, par value \$.01	01/16/2009		M	1,825	A	\$ 20	40,322	D	

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

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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. 5. Number Transaction Derivative Code Securities (Instr. 8) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		6. Date Exer Expiration D (Month/Day,	ate	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 1.05	01/16/2009		M	6,079	<u>(1)</u>	01/13/2015	Common Stock	6,079
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 20	01/16/2009		M	1,825	(2)	11/07/2014	Common Stock	1,825

Reporting Owners

CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Gibbons Peter W

111 W. CONGRESS STREET SVP, Chief Admin. Officer

Signatures

/s/ Lisa G. Kessler, Attorney-in-Fact

**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) The remaining shares underlying the option become exercisable on January 14, 2010.
- (2) The remaining shares underlying the option become exercisable in two equal installments on November 8, 2009 and 2010.

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.

Reporting Owners 2