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AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION INC
Form SC 13G
February 17, 2009

SCHEDULE 13G

Amendment No. 0
American Public Education, Inc.
Common Stock
Cusip #02913V103

Cusip #02913V103
Item 1: Reporting Person - FMR LLC
Item 4: Delaware
Item 5: 55,000
Item 6: 0
Item 7: 1,101,900
Item 8: 0
Item 9: 1,101,900
Item 11: 6.137%
Item 12: HC

Cusip #02913V103
Item 1: Reporting Person - Edward C. Johnson 3d
Item 4: United States of America
Item 5: 0
Item 6: 0
Item 7: 1,101,900
Item 8: 0
Item 9: 1,101,900
Item 11: 6.137%
Item 12: IN

SCHEDULE 13G - TO BE INCLUDED IN
STATEMENTS
FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b)

Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:

American Public Education, Inc.

Item 1(b). Name of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

111 W Congress Street
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:

FMR LLC

Item 2(b). Address or Principal Business Office or, if None,
Residence:

82 Devonshire Street, Boston,

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Massachusetts 02109

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

Not applicable

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

02913V103

Item 3. This statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b) and the person filing, FMR LLC, is a parent holding company in accordance with Section 240.13d-1(b)(ii)(G). (Note: See Item 7).

Item 4. Ownership

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned: 1,101,900

(b) Percent of Class: 6.137%

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote: 55,000

(ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 0

(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 1,101,900

(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 0

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Various persons have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the Common Stock of American Public Education, Inc.. No one person's interest in the Common Stock of American Public Education, Inc. is more than five percent of the total outstanding Common Stock.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company.

See attached Exhibit A.

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Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not applicable. See attached Exhibit A.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

February 13, 2009
Date

/s/ Scott C. Goebel
Signature

Scott C. Goebel
Duly authorized under Power of Attorney
effective as of June 1, 2008 by and on behalf of FMR LLC
and its direct and indirect subsidiaries

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Pursuant to the instructions in Item 7 of Schedule 13G, Fidelity Management & Research Company ("Fidelity"), 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 1,046,900 shares or 5.831% of the Common Stock outstanding of American Public Education, Inc. ("the Company") as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of Fidelity, and the funds each has sole power to dispose of the 1,046,900 shares owned by the Funds.

Members of the family of Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR LLC, are the predominant owners, directly or through trusts, of Series B voting common shares of FMR LLC, representing 49% of the voting power of FMR LLC.

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The Johnson family group and all other Series B shareholders have entered into a shareholders' voting agreement under which all Series B voting common shares will be voted in accordance with the majority vote of Series B voting common shares. Accordingly, through their ownership of voting common shares and the execution of the shareholders' voting agreement, members of the Johnson family may be deemed, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, to form a controlling group with respect to FMR LLC.

Neither FMR LLC nor Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR LLC, has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Fidelity Funds, which power resides with the Funds' Boards of Trustees. Fidelity carries out the voting of the shares under written guidelines established by the Funds' Boards of Trustees.

Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company ("PGATC"), 53 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02109, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and a bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, is the beneficial owner of 54,300 shares or 0.302% of the outstanding Common Stock of the American Public Education, Inc. as a result of its serving as investment manager of institutional accounts owning such shares.

Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company, each has sole dispositive power over 54,300 shares and sole power to vote or to direct the voting of 54,300 shares of Common Stock owned by the institutional accounts managed by PGATC as reported above.

FIL Limited ("FIL"), Pembroke Hall, 42 Crow Lane, Hamilton, Bermuda, and various foreign-based subsidiaries provide investment advisory and management services to a number of non-U.S. investment companies and certain institutional investors. FIL, which is a qualified institution under section 240.13d-1(b)(1) pursuant to an SEC No-Action letter dated October 5, 2000, is the beneficial owner of 700 shares or 0.004% of the Common Stock outstanding of the Company.

Partnerships controlled predominantly by members of the family of Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR LLC and FIL, or trusts for their benefit, own shares of FIL voting stock with the right to cast approximately 47% of the total votes which may be cast by all holders of FIL voting stock. FMR LLC and FIL are separate and independent corporate entities, and their Boards of Directors are generally composed of different individuals.

FMR LLC and FIL are of the view that they are not acting as a "group" for purposes of Section 13(d) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "1934" Act) and that they are not otherwise required to attribute to each other the "beneficial ownership" of securities "beneficially owned" by the other corporation within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the 1934 Act. Therefore, they are of the view that the shares held by the other corporation need not be aggregated for purposes of Section 13(d). However, FMR LLC is making this filing on a voluntary basis as if all of the

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shares are beneficially owned by FMR LLC and FIL on a joint basis.

SCHEDULE 13G - TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS

FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b)
RULE 13d-1(f)(1) AGREEMENT

The undersigned persons, on February 13, 2009, agree and consent to the joint filing on their behalf of this Schedule 13G in connection with their beneficial ownership of the Common Stock of American Public Education, Inc. at December 31, 2008.

FMR LLC

By /s/ Scott C. Goebel
Scott C. Goebel

Duly authorized under Power of Attorney effective as of June 1, 2008, by and on behalf of FMR LLC and its direct and indirect subsidiaries

Edward C. Johnson 3d

By /s/ Scott C. Goebel
Scott C. Goebel

Duly authorized under Power of Attorney effective as of June 1, 2008, by and on behalf of Edward C. Johnson 3d

Fidelity Management & Research Company

By /s/ Scott C. Goebel
Scott C. Goebel
Senior V.P. and General Counsel