



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

DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

Mail Stop 3720

June 6, 2016

Richard W. Sunderland, Jr.  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
American Public Education, Inc.  
111 West Congress Street  
Charles Town, WV 25414

**Re: American Public Education, Inc.**  
**Form 10-K for Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2015**  
**Filed February 29, 2016**  
**File No. 001-33810**

Dear Mr. Sunderland:

We have completed our review of your filing. We remind you that our comments or changes to disclosure in response to our comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filing and the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States. We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/ Celeste M. Murphy for

Larry Spirgel  
Assistant Director  
AD Office 11 – Telecommunications

cc: William Intner, Esq.  
Hogan Lovells US LLP