Melinda Hollis

Executive editor

Current Issues in Education

Arizona state University

Dear Ms. Hollis:

Please note our responses to the reviewer comments are listed below each comment. Thank you for your time and consideration of our manuscript.

Reviewer Comments #1

Check the APA manual (Publication manual of the American Psychological

Association, 2010) for spacing rules after a period. The author uses two

spaces where there should be only one.

* *We have adjusted the spaces after each period (to one in place of two) to comply with APA 6th edition.*

Also, check APA for use of passive voice. I detected several instances when

passive voice weakened the argument. Check spelling and idiomatic

expressions. For example, we typically say level the playing field rather

than level the play field.

* *We have edited to manuscript to eliminate and reduce much of the passive voice. Please see for example the hi-lighted portions on pages, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 19.*

Finally, I suggest the insertion of parenthetical

references after the theoretical frameworks mention is the recommendations.

For example, the author writes, “Organized within the principles of data

driven instruction,…” (citation needed).

* *We have added the correct citations on page 20 (hi-lighted).*

This is simply my suggestion: I would add the following recommendation for

further research at the conclusion of the article: Further research is

needed to determine why charter schools do not produce significantly better

scores than their public school counterparts as expected. The author begs

this question by leaving it unanswered; it is the elephant in the room, so

to speak.

* *We concur with the reviewer and have added our thoughts on page 19.*

Reviewer Comments #2

The three research questions are yes/no questions and do not provide room

for much qualitative discussion around their answer. Please revise.

* *After some discussion and review, we have taken the review comments into consideration and altered the original research questions, hi-lighted on page 13.*

The rationale for why there may be a disparity doesn't really fit into the

questions plus if there is, for instance, greater student diversity in some

grades, then your selection criteria of similar demographics was flawed.

Please modify and explain.

* *We added details to some of our recommendations and omitted some conjecture on pages 20-21. The student diversity between the grades, we feel, is not great enough to attribute to the disparity found in the upper elementary grades. Also, we were comparing school demographics as a whole, focusing on the target school and two surrounding community schools.*

Many assumptions are made as the findings are attempted to be explained with

conjecture rather than fact: e.g., We discounted this by citing although the

exams logically progress in difficulty, the target school curriculum

adequately covers topics on annual exams. Please explain in greater depth of

detail.

* *We added details to some of our recommendations and omitted some conjecture on pages 20-21. The student diversity between the grades, we feel, is not great enough to attribute to the disparity found in the upper elementary grades. Also, we were comparing school demographics as a whole, focusing on the target school and two surrounding community schools.*

Consider: One can always find certain schools, whether public, private, or

charter, that score well or do not score well compared to similar schools;

we know that the teacher makes the difference.

* *We acknowledge this factor and added our comments on page 21*.

Reviewer Comments #3

On page 9, there are two extra commas after "Mathes et.al,, 2005," and

"Simmons, Keme’enui, Stoolmiller; Vaughn et.al,, 2000;" there are

inappropriate single and double line spaces in various parts of the

manuscript--such as pages 5, 6, 12, and 13; in the reference on page 22, the

depiction of "Center for Education Reform (2006)..,' should have part of

<http://www.edreform.com/charterschools/> on the previous line. I understand

that some of these apparent "errors" are the result of the electronic

transfers of the manuscript; however, corrections of the other errors will

improve it.

* *We have made the corrections where noted.*