Reviewer's report

**Title:** The relationship between school physical activity policy and objectively measured physical activity of elementary school students: A multilevel model analysis

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 13 March 2014

**Reviewer:** Natalie Colabianchi

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors have done a nice job addressing previous comments.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

There is a new finding related to active transport however they do not report the increase in number of minutes of physical activity for children in schools in the maintenance or action phases versus initiation. The same information is reported for the other significant exposure and it would be desirable to have this information in the paper.

**Discretionary Revisions**

I still contend that the introduction of the specific items used to assess school policies in the discussion is confusing. The authors state on page 13, 1st full paragraph, "That is, the manner in which physical activity policies were communicated, the origin of these policies (i.e. created by the school administration versus a higher governing body such as the Ministry of Education), how long they had been in place and the frequency with which they were reviewed, were not related to differences in student physical activity between schools." Thus it seems they have completed analyses that examine subsets of indicators and their correlation with the outcome. If this is the case it should be in the results not the discussion. But regardless of its placement, more detail on these additional items and how the authors reach their conclusion (i.e., the variability on the subsets of items that constitute which phase the schools were classified into for written policies were not associated with differences in activity) would help the reader understand the point the authors are trying to make.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests