Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Factors influencing sustained implementation and fidelity thereof and related student outcomes of an evidence-based national HIV prevention program

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 22 January 2015

**Reviewer:** Wynne Norton

**Reviewer’s report:**

Overall, I enjoyed reading this manuscript and found it interesting. The strengths of the study include the large sample size of teachers, understudied population, and focus on association between teacher characteristics and implementation. Unfortunately, however, I think this manuscript needs to be considerably revised in order to warrant publication in Implementation Science, as I’m not convinced it makes a substantial contribution to the field. Alternatively, the authors may consider submitting the manuscript to a more specialized journal at the intersection of HIV/AIDS and implementation, such as AIDS & Behavior, AIDS Education and Prevention, or AIDS Care.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

--The authors should consider streamlining the manuscript, especially the a) data analysis and b) results sections. Utilize the text to highlight the critical aspects of the findings and refer the reader to the tables for additional information.

--The authors should include a more thorough review and synthesis of the literature in the introduction section. There are many other articles (including those in HIV/AIDS and in school settings) that discuss the degree to which EBIs are or are not implemented with fidelity and individual implementers’ characteristics associated with full/moderate/low implementation of EBIs. The authors need to make a stronger argument for how this study makes a unique contribution to the literature above and beyond what we already know about fidelity and its association with implementer characteristics.

--The authors may consider providing definitions of (and appropriate citations for) their terms, including sustained implementation. Is there a particular timeframe for which the authors are using to conceptualize sustained implementation (e.g., implement core components for more than 1 year?) vs. actual or full implementation? The literature of sustainability may be useful here in making a distinction between sustainability and full implementation.

--I think one of the strengths of the manuscript is students' reported outcomes. The authors may consider streamlining the focus of their manuscript to emphasize this a bit more.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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