

# Application: Cypress Hills Ascend Charter School

Jennivieve Arjune - jennivieve.arjune@ascendlearning.org  
2021-2022 Annual Report

## Summary

**ID:** 0000000230

**Labels:** SUNY Trustees

## Entry 1 School Info and Cover Page

**Completed** Jul 29 2022

### Instructions

#### Required of ALL Charter Schools

Each Annual Report begins with a completed School Information and Cover Page. The information is collected in a survey format within Annual Report portal. When entering information in the portal, some of the following items may not appear, depending on your authorizer and/or your responses to related items.

## Entry 1 School Information and Cover Page

**(New schools that were not open for instruction for the 2021-2022 school year are not required to complete or submit an annual report this year).**

Please be advised that you will need to complete this cover page (including signatures) before all of the other tasks assigned to you by your school's authorizer are visible on your task page. While completing this cover page task, please ensure that you select the correct authorizer **(as of June 30, 2022)** or you may not be assigned the correct tasks.

## BASIC INFORMATION

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**a. SCHOOL NAME**

(Select name from the drop down menu)

CYPRESS HILLS ASCEND CHARTER SCHOOL 800000089574

**a1. Popular School Name**

Cypress Hills Ascend Charter School

**b. CHARTER AUTHORIZER (As of June 30th, 2021)**

Please select the correct authorizer as of June 30, 2022 or you may not be assigned the correct tasks.

SUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**d. DISTRICT / CSD OF LOCATION**

CSD #19 - BROOKLYN

**e. DATE OF INITIAL CHARTER**

6/2017

**f. DATE FIRST OPENED FOR INSTRUCTION**

9/2018

**c. School Unionized**

Is your charter school unionized?

No

**h. SCHOOL WEB ADDRESS (URL)**

<http://ascendlearning.org>

**i. Total Approved Charter Enrollment for 2021-2022 School Year (exclude Pre-K program enrollment)**

378

**j. Total Enrollment on June 30, 2022 (exclude Pre-K program enrollment)**

319

**k. Grades Served during the 2021-2022 School Year (exclude Pre-K program students)**

Check all that apply

Grades Served

K, 1, 2, 3, 4

**I1. DOES THE SCHOOL CONTRACT WITH A CHARTER OR EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION?**

Yes

**I2. NAME OF CMO/EMO AND ADDRESS**

NAME OF CMO/EMO	Ascend Learning Inc.
PHYSICAL STREET ADDRESS	205 Rockaway Parkway 6th FL.
CITY	Brooklyn
STATE	ny
ZIP CODE	11212
EMAIL ADDRESS	<a href="mailto:info@ascendlearning.org">info@ascendlearning.org</a>
CONTACT PERSON NAME	Maryann Li

**FACILITIES INFORMATION**

**m. FACILITIES**

Will the school maintain or operate multiple sites in 2022-2023?

No, just one site.

**CYPRESS HILLS ASCEND CHARTER SCHOOL 800000089574**

**School Site 1 (Primary)**



## m1. SCHOOL SITES

Please provide information on Site 1 for the upcoming school year.

	Physical Address	Phone Number	District/CSD	Grades to be Served at Site for coming year (K-5, 6-9, etc.)	Receives Rental Assistance for Which Grades (If yes, enter the appropriate grades. If no, enter No).
Site 1	396 Grant Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11208	929-331-3373	NYC CSD 19	K-4	All

**m1a. Please provide the contact information for Site 1.**

	Name	Title	Work Phone	Alternate Phone	Email Address
School Leader	Sophia Balis-Harris	Principal	917-723-6775		<a href="mailto:sophia.harris@ascendlearning.org">sophia.harris@ascendlearning.org</a>
Operational Leader	Simone Yearwood	Assistant Principal of Operations	929-331-3373		<a href="mailto:simone.legallyearwood@ascendlearning.org">simone.legallyearwood@ascendlearning.org</a>
Compliance Contact	Katherine McGrath	Legal Counsel	845-548-0181		<a href="mailto:katherine.mcgrath@ascendlearning.org">katherine.mcgrath@ascendlearning.org</a>
Complaint Contact	Danique Day	Chief Schools Officer	347-464-7600		<a href="mailto:danique.day@ascendlearning.org">danique.day@ascendlearning.org</a>
DASA Coordinator	Stefanny Andujar	Manger of Student Services	646-671-0932		<a href="mailto:stefanny.andujar@ascendlearning.org">stefanny.andujar@ascendlearning.org</a>
Phone Contact for After Hours Emergencies	Maryann Li	Chief Operations Officer	757-563-3188		<a href="mailto:maryann.li@ascendlearning.org">maryann.li@ascendlearning.org</a>

**m1b. Is site 1 in public (co-located) space or in private space?**

Private Space

## IF LOCATED IN PRIVATE SPACE IN NYC OR IN DISTRICTS OUTSIDE NYC

**m1d. Upload a current Certificate of Occupancy (COO) and the annual Fire Inspection Report for school site 1 if located in private space in NYC or located outside of NYC .**

**Certificate of Occupancy and Fire Inspection. Provide a copy of a current and non-expired certificate of occupancy (if outside NYC or in private space in NYC). For schools that are not in district space (NYC co-locations), provide a copy of a current and non-expired certificate of occupancy, and a copy of the current annual fire inspection results, which should be dated on or after July 1, 2021.**

- **Fire inspection certificates must be updated annually. For the upcoming school year 2022-2023, the fire inspection certificate must be dated after July 1, 2021.**
- **If the fire inspection certificate is dated after the August 1, 2022 submission of the Annual Report, please submit the new certificate with the Annual Report entries due on November 1, 2022.**

### Site 1 Certificate of Occupancy (COO)

[CofO-CHALCS.pdf](#)

**Filename:** CofO-CHALCS.pdf **Size:** 654.4 kB

### Site 1 Fire Inspection Report

## CHARTER REVISIONS DURING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

**n1. Were there any revisions to the school's charter during the 2021-2022 school year? (Please include approved or pending material and non-material charter revisions).**

No

**o. Has your school's Board of Trustee's approved a budget for the 2021-2022 FY?**

Yes

## ATTESTATIONS

**p. Individual Primarily Responsible for Submitting the Annual Report.** (To write type in a phone number with an extension, please use this format: 123-456-7890-3. The dash and number 3 at the end of the phone number refers to the individual's phone extension. Do not type in the work extension or the abbreviation for it - just the dash and the extension number after the phone number).

Name	Jennivieve Arjune
Position	Network Manager of Operations
Phone/Extension	347-853-0380
Email	<a href="mailto:jennivieve.Arjune@ascendlearning.org">jennivieve.Arjune@ascendlearning.org</a>

**p. Our signatures** (Executive Director/School Leader/Head of School and Board President) below attest that our school has reviewed, understands and will comply with the employee clearance and fingerprint requirements as outlined in Entry 10 and found in the [NYSED CSO Fingerprint Clearance Oct 2019 Memo](#). Click **YES** to agree.

### Responses Selected:

Yes

**q. Our signatures** (Executive Director/School Leader/Head of School and Board President) below attest that all of the information contained herein is truthful and accurate and that this charter school is in compliance with all aspects of its charter, and with all pertinent Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and rules. We understand that if any information in any part of this report is found to have been deliberately misrepresented, that will constitute grounds for the revocation of our charter. Click **YES** to agree and then use the mouse on your PC or the stylus on your mobile device to sign your name).

### Responses Selected:

Yes

**Signature, Head of Charter School**

*Sophia Bonetto*

**Signature, President of the Board of Trustees**

*Madame L. L. L.*

**Date**

Jul 29 2022

**Thank you.**



## **Entry 3 Accountability Plan Progress Reports**

**Incomplete**

**Instructions**

## **SUNY-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY- Complete Template and Upload to Epicenter**

SUNY-authorized charter schools must download an Accountability Plan Progress Report template at [Accountability Plan Progress Report](#). After completing, SUNY-authorized charter schools must upload the document into the SUNY Epicenter system by **September 15, 2022**. SUNY CSI will forward to NYSED CSO.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a required task, and it is marked optional for administrative purposes only.**

## **Entry 4 - Audited Financial Statements**

**Incomplete**

### **Required of ALL Charter Schools**

**ALL SUNY-authorized charter schools** must upload the financial statements and related documents in PDF format into the SUNY Epicenter system no later than **November 1, 2022**. SUNY CSI will forward to NYSED CSO. **SUNY-authorized charter schools** are asked to ensure that security features such as password protection are turned off.

**ALL Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-authorized charter schools** must upload final, audited financial statements to the [Annual Report Portal](#) no later than **November 1, 2022**. Upload the independent auditor's report, any advisory and/or management letter, and the internal controls report as one submission, combined into a PDF file, ensuring that security features such as password protections are removed from all school uploaded documents.

**PLEASE NOTE: This task appears as visible and optional task in the online portal until August 1 2022 but will be identified as a required task thereafter and due on November 1, 2022. This is a required task, and it is marked optional for administrative purposes only.**

## **Entry 4a - Audited Financial Report Template (SUNY)**

**Incomplete**

### **Instructions - SUNY-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY**

SUNY-authorized schools must download the Excel spreadsheet entitled "Audited Financial Report Template" at <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/fiscal/>. After completing, schools must upload the document into the SUNY Epicenter system no later than **November 1, 2022**. SUNY CSI will forward to NYSED CSO.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a required task, and it is marked optional for administrative purposes only.**

## **Entry 4c - Additional Financial Documents**

**Incomplete** Hidden from applicant

**Instructions - Regents, NYCDOE and Buffalo BOE authorized schools** must upload financial documents and submit by **November 1, 2022**. The items listed below should be uploaded, with an explanation if not applicable or available. For example, a "federal Single Audit was not required because the school did not expend federal funds of more than the \$750,000 Threshold."

1. Advisory and/or Management letter
2. Federal Single Audit

3. CSP Agreed-Upon Procedure Report
4. Evidence of Required Escrow Account for each school<sup>[1]</sup>
5. Corrective Action Plan for Audit Findings and Management Letter Recommendations

<sup>[1]</sup> Note: For BOR schools chartered or renewed after the 2017-2018 school year, the escrow account per school is \$100,000.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a required task, and it is marked optional for administrative purposes only.**

## Entry 4d - Financial Services Contact Information

**Incomplete** Hidden from applicant

**Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE authorized schools** should enter financial contact information directly into the form within the portal by **November 1, 2022**.

## Form for "Financial Services Contact Information"

### 1. School Based Fiscal Contact Information

	School Based Fiscal Contact Name	School Based Fiscal Contact Email	School Based Fiscal Contact Phone

### 2. Audit Firm Contact Information

	School Audit Contact Name	School Audit Contact Email	School Audit Contact Phone	Years Working With This Audit Firm

**3. If applicable, please provide contact information for the school's outsourced financial services firm.**

	Firm Name	Contact Person	Mailing Address	Email	Phone	Years With Firm

## Entry 5 - Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget

**Incomplete**

**SUNY-authorized charter schools** should download the [2022-23 Budget and Quarterly Report Template and the 2022-23 Budget Narrative Questionnaire](#) from the SUNY website and upload the completed template into Epicenter. SUNY CSI will forward to NYSED CSO. **Due November 1, 2022.**

**Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE authorized charter schools** should upload a copy of the school's FY22 Budget using the [2022-2023 Budget Template](#) in the portal or from the Annual Report website. **Due November 1, 2022.**

The assumptions column should be completed for all revenue and expense items unless the item is self-explanatory. Where applicable, reference the page number or section in the application narrative that indicates the assumption being made. For instance, student enrollment would reference the applicable page number in Section I, C of the application narrative.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a required task, and it is marked optional for administrative purposes only.**

## **Entry 6 - Board of Trustees Disclosure of Financial Interest Form**

**Completed** Jul 29 2022

Due on August 1, 2022, each member of the charter school's Board of Trustees who served on a charter school education corporation governing one or more charter schools for any period during the 2021-2022 school year must complete and sign a [Trustee Disclosure of Financial Interest Form](#). Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature (i.e., DocuSign)
- Manual signature (1. download to print, 2. manually sign, 3. scan signed document to PDF, and 4. upload into portal)

All completed forms must be collected and uploaded in .PDF format for each individual member. **The education corporation is responsible for completing the form for trustees who left the board during the reporting year.**

Forms completed from past years will not be accepted. **Only the latest version of the form** (updated in April, 2022) is acceptable.).

Trustees serving on an education corporation that governs more than one school are not required to complete a separate disclosure for each school governed by the education corporation. In the Disclosure of Financial Interest Form, trustees must disclose information relevant to any of the schools served by the governing education corporation.

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-A Craft](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F QaIaKNM.pdf **Size:** 525.8 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-E Fourdjour](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F Zdu1vKv.pdf **Size:** 420.8 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-G Hopps](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F N17bFU4.pdf **Size:** 181.4 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-N Sylvester](#)**



**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F oJ6xXrq.pdf **Size:** 579.5 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-O Walcott](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F wQdWhds.pdf **Size:** 426.6 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-K Andoh](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F W8nnO9g.pdf **Size:** 198.5 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-S Cleary](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F TnAFZDW.pdf **Size:** 323.1 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-G Walker](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F tdf9y5P.pdf **Size:** 309.7 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-S Mauterstock](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F 7IH7d1K.pdf **Size:** 50.9 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-S Taylor](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F MotvUgR.pdf **Size:** 379.4 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-J Wilson](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F q76qyHa.pdf **Size:** 421.5 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial interest Form-J Jeter](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial interest F VKspuwG.pdf **Size:** 668.5 kB

### **[Disclosure of Financial Interest Form-T Dunbar](#)**

**Filename:** Disclosure of Financial Interest F 9xSNhGY.pdf **Size:** 524.6 kB

## **Entry 7 BOT Membership Table**

**Completed** Jul 29 2022

## **Instructions**

### **Required of ALL charter schools**

ALL charter schools or education corporations governing multiple schools must complete the Board of Trustees Membership Table within the online portal. Please be sure to include and identify parents who are members of the Board of Trustees and indicate whether parents are voting or non-voting members.

## **Entry 7 BOT Table**

1. SUNY-AUTHORIZED charter schools are required to provide information for VOTING Trustees only.

2. REGENTS, NYCDOE, and BUFFALO BOE-AUTHORIZED charter schools are required to provide information for all --VOTING and NON-VOTING-- trustees.

**CYPRESS HILLS ASCEND CHARTER SCHOOL 800000089574**

**Authorizer:**

Who is the authorizer of your charter school?

SUNY

**1. 2021-2022 Board Member Information (Enter info for each BOT member)**

	Trustee Name	Trustee Email Address	Position on the Board	Committee Affiliations	Voting Member Per By-Laws (Y/N)	Number of Terms Served	Start Date of Current Term (MM/DD/YYYY)	End Date of Current Term (MM/DD/YYYY)	Board Meetings Attended During 2021-2022
1	Nadine Sylvester		Chair	Academic, Nominating	Yes	5	07/01/2021	06/30/2022	10
2	Stanley Taylor		Chair	Hiring, Nominating	Yes	2	07/01/2021	06/30/2022	12
3	Shelly Cleary		Treasurer	Executive, Finance	Yes	6	07/01/2021	06/30/2022	12
4	Emmanuel Fordjour		Secretary	Academic, Hiring	Yes	2	07/01/2021	06/30/2022	12

5	Gamal Walker		Trustee/ Member	Finance	Yes	1	02/17/2022	06/30/2022	5 or less
6	Janai Jeter		Parent Rep	Academic, Hiring	Yes	1	02/17/2022	06/30/2022	5 or less
7	Jackie Wilson		Trustee/ Member	Hiring, Nominating	Yes	1	02/17/2022	06/30/2022	5 or less
8	Amanda Craft		Trustee/ Member	Academic, Hiring	Yes	7	07/01/2021	12/08/2021	5 or less
9	Tracy Dunbar		Trustee/ Member	Academic, Hiring	Yes	2	07/01/2021	11/30/2021	5 or less

**1a. Are there more than 9 members of the Board of Trustees?**

Yes

## 1b. Board Member Information

	Trustee Name	Trustee Email Address	Position on the Board	Committee Affiliations	Voting Member Per By-Laws (Y/N)	Number of Terms Served	Start Date of Current Term (MM/DD/YYYY)	End Date of Current Term (MM/DD/YYYY)	Board Meetings Attended During 2021-2022
10	Kwaku Andoh		Trustee/Member	Academic, Finance	Yes	7	07/01/2021	06/09/2022	9
11	Glenn Hopps		Treasurer	Executive, Finance	Yes	3	07/01/2021	05/16/2022	8
12	Stephanie Mauters tock		Chair	Academic, Executive, Nominating	Yes	7	07/01/2021	06/30/2022	5 or less
13	Oral Walcott		Trustee/Member	Hiring, Nominating	Yes	7	07/01/2021	06/08/2022	9
14									
15									

## 1c. Are there more than 15 members of the Board of Trustees?

No

## 2. INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. SUNY-AUTHORIZED charter schools provide response relative to VOTING Trustees only.
2. REGENTS, NYCDOE, and BUFFALO BOE-AUTHORIZED charter schools provide a response relative to all trustees.

a. Total Number of BOT Members on June 30, 2022	7
b.Total Number of Members Added During 2021-2022	3
c. Total Number of Members who Departed during 2021-2022	6
d.Total Number of members, as set in Bylaws, Resolution or Minutes	7

### 3. Number of Board meetings held during 2021-2022

13

### 4. Number of Board meetings scheduled for 2022-2023

12

### Total number of Voting Members on June 30, 2022:

7

### Total number of Voting Members added during the 2021-2022 school year:

3

Total number of Voting Members who departed during the 2021-2022 school year:

6

Total Maximum Number of Voting members in 2021-2022, as set by the board in bylaws, resolution, or minutes:

7

Thank you.

## Entry 8 Board Meeting Minutes

**Incomplete** Hidden from applicant

### **Instructions - Required of Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE Authorized Schools ONLY**

Schools must upload a complete set of monthly board meeting minutes (July 2021-June 2022), which should match the number of meetings held during the 2021-2022 school year, as indicated in the above table. The minutes provided must be the final version approved by the school's Board of Trustees and may be uploaded individually or as one single combined file. Board meeting minutes must be submitted by **August 1, 2022**.

## Entry 9 Enrollment & Retention

**Completed** Jul 29 2022

### **Instructions for submitting Enrollment and Retention Efforts**

#### **Required of ALL Charter Schools**

Describe the good faith efforts the charter school has made in 2021-2022 toward meeting targets to attract and retain the enrollment of Students with Disabilities (SWDs), English Language Learners (ELLs), and students who are economically disadvantaged. In addition, describe the school's plans for meeting or making progress toward meeting its enrollment and retention targets in 2022-2023.

## Entry 9 Enrollment and Retention of Special Populations

Recruitment/Attraction Efforts Toward Meeting Targets

	Describe Recruitment Efforts in 2021-2022	Describe Recruitment Plans in 2022-2023
	<p>"The 2021-22 school year was an unprecedented one that required us to leverage new and innovative strategies to serve our students and families. We took an adaptive and responsive approach to implement recruitment strategies to ensure that these populations make up a significant portion of our applications. Ascend Public Charter Schools remains committed to serving all students, regardless of ability, English language learner (ELL) status, or economic disadvantage. In school year 2021-22, our strategy focused on improving recruitment and increasing yield.</p> <p>Communication with potential applicants and current families is the foundation of Ascend's approach to student recruitment. School and network staff work together closely to recruit and retain students. School staff bring a deep understanding of each respective community, creating a local, grassroots recruitment structure through which school leaders leverage their familiarity with families. The network's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team also conducts focus groups with families and students to understand perspectives on Ascend and amplify the strengths noted by our families to the</p>	<p>"In school year 2022-23 we will continue to implement our current recruitment strategies and remain flexible and innovative in the way in which we ensure that these populations make up a significant portion of our applications. Ascend Public Charter Schools remains committed to serving all students, regardless of ability, English language learner (ELL) status, or economic disadvantage. We will continue to focus on improving recruitment and increasing yield.</p> <p>Communication with potential applicants and current families is the foundation of Ascend's approach to student recruitment. School and network staff work together closely to recruit and retain students. School staff bring a deep understanding of each respective community, creating a local, grassroots recruitment structure through which school leaders leverage their familiarity with families. The network's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team also conducts focus groups with families and students to understand perspectives on Ascend and amplify the strengths noted by our families to the broader community.</p> <p>The network's Student Recruitment and Enrollment</p>

broader community. The network's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team provides infrastructure support for recruitment activities; they create marketing materials, guide systematic outreach efforts, and coordinate with school leaders to arrange events. Ascend Charter Schools maintains an engaging website where families can learn about Ascend's mission and core values and gain more information about curriculum and school culture. Beyond the website, Ascend uses several social media tools to keep families informed and engaged. We use a variety of digital, audio, print, and mailing ads to promote Ascend schools, advertising on buses, in newspapers, through direct mailing, and at local community events.

To increase yield, the team has expanded its support to families to guide them through the application process, including individual calls, emails, and text messages to families to answer their questions, verify required documents, and help them enroll with Ascend. Schools also send welcome emails, hold tours, and host yield events. For the 2022-23 school year, the new student registration process has also been updated to align with Ascend's DEIA efforts by modifying the phrasing of certain questions, application requirements, and application explanations.

team provides infrastructure support for recruitment activities; they create marketing materials, guide systematic outreach efforts, and coordinate with school leaders to arrange events. Ascend Charter Schools maintains an engaging website where families can learn about Ascend's mission and core values and gain more information about curriculum and school culture. Beyond the website, Ascend uses several social media tools to keep families informed and engaged. We use a variety of digital, audio, print, and mailing ads to promote Ascend schools, advertising on buses, in newspapers, through direct mailing, and at local community events.

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Within this recruitment strategy, Ascend takes steps to reach out



Within this recruitment strategy, Ascend takes steps to reach out to parents of students in special populations in particular and support them in enrolling their children at Ascend schools.

To improve outreach to and communication with families of ELL students, the Student Recruitment and Enrollment team now creates and circulates marketing materials in three languages that are dominant among non-English speakers in the communities Ascend serves: Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Bengali. Materials produced in multiple languages include school signage, social media marketing, printed collateral, outdoor advertising, and our student application. Community outreach associates who speak Spanish and Haitian Creole are available to assist parents with the application process. Ascend also advertises in several Spanish-language publications, and Spanish-speaking staff are present at information sessions to interpret for and guide Spanish-speaking parents of prospective students.

Ascend distributes marketing materials that share our services for students with IEPs. A succinct one-page flyer explains what supports families can expect if they enroll their child in an Ascend school. The Student Recruitment and Enrollment team maintains contact with

to parents of students in special populations in particular and support them in enrolling their children at Ascend schools.

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Ascend distributes marketing materials that share our services for students with IEPs. A succinct one-page flyer explains what supports families can expect if they enroll their child in an Ascend school. The Student Recruitment and Enrollment team maintains contact with local early childhood education centers, after-school programs, family medical centers, shelters,

	<p>local early childhood education centers, after-school programs, family medical centers, shelters, and community centers to connect with families of economically disadvantaged students.</p> <p>Ascend's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team adapted its recruiting efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic. The team held virtual information sessions for interested families, created virtual tour videos, and replaced door-to-door canvassing with phone calls. In the absence of in-person events, Ascend reallocated resources to follow up with applicants from the past two years who are not attending Ascend schools. These adaptations have enabled us to maintain a robust enrollment pipeline even through the difficulties of the pandemic. Economically disadvantaged residents constitute the highest population concentration in the neighborhoods surrounding Ascend schools. We expect that through the efforts outlined above, we will continue reaching and recruiting from this population. This is particularly important following the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had large negative effects on economically disadvantaged families."</p>	<p>and community centers to connect with families of economically disadvantaged students.</p> <p>Ascend's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team adapted its recruiting efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic. The team held virtual information sessions for interested families, created virtual tour videos, and replaced door-to-door canvassing with phone calls. In the absence of in-person events, Ascend reallocated resources to follow up with applicants from the past two years who are not attending Ascend schools. These adaptations have enabled us to maintain a robust enrollment pipeline even through the difficulties of the pandemic.</p> <p>Economically disadvantaged residents constitute the highest population concentration in the neighborhoods surrounding Ascend schools. We expect that through the efforts outlined above, we will continue reaching and recruiting from this population. This is particularly important following the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had large negative effects on economically disadvantaged families."</p>
	<p>"The 2021-22 school year was an unprecedented one that required us to leverage new and innovative strategies to serve our students and families. We took</p>	<p>"In school year 2022-23 we will continue to implement our current recruitment strategies</p>

an adaptive and responsive approach to implement recruitment strategies to ensure that these populations make up a significant portion of our applications. Ascend Public Charter Schools remains committed to serving all students, regardless of ability, English language learner (ELL) status, or economic disadvantage. In school year 2021-22, our strategy focused on improving recruitment and increasing yield.

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The network's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team provides infrastructure support for recruitment activities; they create marketing materials, guide systematic outreach efforts, and coordinate with

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## English Language Learners

school leaders to arrange events. Ascend Charter Schools maintains an engaging website where families can learn about Ascend's mission and core values and gain more information about curriculum and school culture. Beyond the website, Ascend uses several social media tools to keep families informed and engaged. We use a variety of digital, audio, print, and mailing ads to promote Ascend schools, advertising on buses, in newspapers, through direct mailing, and at local community events.

To increase yield, the team has expanded its support to families to guide them through the application process, including individual calls, emails, and text messages to families to answer their questions, verify required documents, and help them enroll with Ascend. Schools also send welcome emails, hold tours, and host yield events. For the 2022-23 school year, the new student registration process has also been updated to align with Ascend's DEIA efforts by modifying the phrasing of certain questions, application requirements, and application explanations.

Within this recruitment strategy, Ascend takes steps to reach out to parents of students in special populations in particular and support them in enrolling their children at Ascend schools.

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To improve outreach to and communication with families of

To improve outreach to and communication with families of ELL students, the Student Recruitment and Enrollment team now creates and circulates marketing materials in three languages that are dominant among non-English speakers in the communities Ascend serves: Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Bengali. Materials produced in multiple languages include school signage, social media marketing, printed collateral, outdoor advertising, and our student application. Community outreach associates who speak Spanish and Haitian Creole are available to assist parents with the application process. Ascend also advertises in several Spanish-language publications, and Spanish-speaking staff are present at information sessions to interpret for and guide Spanish-speaking parents of prospective students.

Ascend's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team adapted its recruiting efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic. The team held virtual information sessions for interested families, created virtual tour videos, and replaced door-to-door canvassing with phone calls. In the absence of in-person events, Ascend reallocated resources to follow up with applicants from the past two years who are not attending Ascend schools. These adaptations have enabled us to maintain a robust enrollment pipeline even through the

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	<p>"The 2021-22 school year was an unprecedented one that required us to leverage new and innovative strategies to serve our students and families. We took an adaptive and responsive approach to implement recruitment strategies to ensure that these populations make up a significant portion of our applications. Ascend Public Charter Schools remains committed to serving all students, regardless of ability, English language learner (ELL) status, or economic disadvantage. In school year 2021-22, our strategy focused on improving recruitment and increasing yield.</p> <p>Communication with potential applicants and current families is the foundation of Ascend's approach to student recruitment. School and network staff work together closely to recruit and retain students. School staff bring a deep understanding of each respective community, creating a local, grassroots recruitment structure through which school leaders leverage their familiarity with families. The network's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team also conducts focus groups with families and students to understand perspectives on Ascend and amplify the strengths noted by our families to the broader community.</p>	<p>"In school year 2022-23 we will continue to implement our current recruitment strategies and remain flexible and innovative in the way in which we ensure that these populations make up a significant portion of our applications. Ascend Public Charter Schools remains committed to serving all students, regardless of ability, English language learner (ELL) status, or economic disadvantage. We will continue to focus on improving recruitment and increasing yield.</p> <p>Communication with potential applicants and current families is the foundation of Ascend's approach to student recruitment. School and network staff work together closely to recruit and retain students. School staff bring a deep understanding of each respective community, creating a local, grassroots recruitment structure through which school leaders leverage their familiarity with families. The network's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team also conducts focus groups with families and students to understand perspectives on Ascend and amplify the strengths noted by our families to the broader community.</p> <p>The network's Student Recruitment and Enrollment</p>

## Students with Disabilities

The network's Student Recruitment and Enrollment team provides infrastructure support for recruitment activities; they create marketing materials, guide systematic outreach efforts, and coordinate with school leaders to arrange events. Ascend Charter Schools maintains an engaging website where families can learn about Ascend's mission and core values and gain more information about curriculum and school culture. Beyond the website, Ascend uses several social media tools to keep families informed and engaged. We use a variety of digital, audio, print, and mailing ads to promote Ascend schools, advertising on buses, in newspapers, through direct mailing, and at local community events.

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Ascend distributes marketing materials that share our services for students with IEPs. A succinct one-page flyer explains what supports families can expect if they enroll their child in an Ascend school. The Student Recruitment and Enrollment team maintains contact with local early childhood education centers, after-school programs, family medical centers, shelters, and community centers to connect with families of economically disadvantaged students.

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## Retention Efforts Toward Meeting Targets

	Describe Retention Efforts in 2021-2022	Describe Retention Plans in 2022-2023
Economically Disadvantaged	<p>Ascend's most important assets for retaining students from special populations are the continued use of robust programs for at-risk populations, the capable staff that support these programs, and the school's strong reputation among families and stakeholders. Once families join Ascend and for those who will remain with us, we maintain our commitment to serving their diverse needs. Even in a remote learning setting, we have become innovative in providing services to students with special education needs. Ascend is committed to creating an inclusive and integrated space for all students, and we have developed systems and procedures that target and support students with academic, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Our goal is to ensure that students with challenges are educated alongside their typically developing peers. Through our intervention programming, we are able to provide comprehensive support to students even before they receive an IEP. Our MTSS team develops plans to support students who are struggling</p>	<p>"In school year 2022-23, we will continue to implement our current retention strategies and enhance them, to ensure that these populations make up a significant portion of our applications.</p> <p>Ascend's most important assets for retaining students from special populations are the continued use of robust programs for at-risk populations, the capable staff that support these programs, and the school's strong reputation among families and stakeholders. Once families join Ascend and for those who will remain with us, we maintain our commitment to serving their diverse needs. Even in a remote learning setting, we have become innovative in providing services to students with special education needs. Ascend is committed to creating an inclusive and integrated space for all students, and we have developed systems and procedures that target and support students with academic, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Our goal is to ensure that students with challenges are educated alongside their typically developing peers. Through our intervention programming, we are able to provide comprehensive support</p>

	<p>academically through Tier I and Tier II interventions. If these plans are not effective and parents consent to evaluation, the CSE evaluates the student to determine if they have a disability. Ascend employs innovative strategies to support our diverse learners in a remote environment while providing parents with knowledge and skills to buttress the learnings and methods at home.</p>	<p>to students even before they receive an IEP. Our MTSS team develops plans to support students who are struggling academically through Tier I and Tier II interventions. If these plans are not effective and parents consent to evaluation, the CSE evaluates the student to determine if they have a disability. Ascend employs innovative strategies to support our diverse learners in a remote environment while providing parents with knowledge and skills to buttress the learnings and methods at home."</p>
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## English Language Learners

Language Learners. Students with little or no English proficiency, as determined by NYSITELL score, rapidly acquire English language skills when taught intensively by teachers with appropriate English as a New Language (ENL) training. The school uses ENL methodology and aspects of the general education curriculum, designed to focus on phonics, reading, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and other English language fundamentals. Students are placed in intensive English language instruction using the Freestanding ENL Program, where they are educated alongside other ELLs. The school determines each student's exit based on individual students' needs and in accordance with SED requirements. Ascend employs innovative strategies to support our diverse learners in a remote environment while providing parents with knowledge and skills to buttress the learnings and methods at home.

With teachers having increased communication with families as parents supported students during the remote learning, where needed, we provided translators to join the call to ensure that our families were receiving updates and pertinent resources in the language that suited their comfort."

inclusive and integrated space for all students, and we have developed systems and procedures that support English Language Learners. Students with little or no English proficiency, as determined by NYSITELL score, rapidly acquire English language skills when taught intensively by teachers with appropriate English as a New Language (ENL) training. The school uses ENL methodology and aspects of the general education curriculum, designed to focus on phonics, reading, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and other English language fundamentals. Students are placed in intensive English language instruction using the Freestanding ENL Program, where they are educated alongside other ELLs. The school determines each student's exit based on individual students' needs and in accordance with SED requirements. Ascend employs innovative strategies to support our diverse learners in a remote environment while providing parents with knowledge and skills to buttress the learnings and methods at home.

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Students with Disabilities	<p>Ascend's most important assets for retaining students from special populations are the continued use of robust programs for at-risk populations, the capable staff that support these programs, and the school's strong reputation among families and stakeholders. Once families join Ascend and for those who will remain with us, we maintain our commitment to serving their diverse needs. Even in a remote learning setting, we have become innovative in providing services to students with special education needs. Ascend is committed to creating an inclusive and integrated space for all students, and we have developed systems and procedures that target and support students with academic, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Our goal is to ensure that students with challenges are educated alongside their typically developing peers. Through our intervention programming, we are able to begin providing comprehensive support to students even before they receive an IEP. Our MTSS team develops plans to support students who are struggling academically through Tier I and Tier II interventions. If these plans are not effective and parents consent to evaluation,</p>	<p>"In school year 2021-22, we will continue to implement our current retention strategies and enhance them, to ensure that these populations make up a significant portion of our applications.</p> <p>Ascend's most important assets for retaining students from special populations are the continued use of robust programs for at-risk populations, the capable staff that support these programs, and the school's strong reputation among families and stakeholders. Once families join Ascend and for those who will remain with us, we maintain our commitment to serving their diverse needs. Even in a remote learning setting, we have become innovative in providing services to students with special education needs. Ascend is committed to creating an inclusive and integrated space for all students, and we have developed systems and procedures that target and support students with academic, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Our goal is to ensure that students with challenges are educated alongside their typically developing peers. Through our intervention programming, we are able to begin providing comprehensive support to students even before they receive an IEP. Our MTSS team develops plans to support students who are struggling</p>

	<p>the CSE evaluates the student to determine if they have a disability. In partnership with the Committee on Special Education (CSE), Ascend employs innovative strategies to support our diverse learners in a remote environment while providing parents with knowledge and skills to buttress the learnings and methods at home. Teachers and service providers partner with parents to ensure that students are available and participatory in virtual classes and sessions that respond to services outlined in IEPs.</p>	<p>academically through Tier I and Tier II interventions. If these plans are not effective and parents consent to evaluation, the CSE evaluates the student to determine if they have a disability. In partnership with the Committee on Special Education (CSE), Ascend employs innovative strategies to support our diverse learners in a remote environment while providing parents with knowledge and skills to buttress the learnings and methods at home. Teachers and service providers partner with parents to ensure that students are available and participatory in virtual classes and sessions that respond to services outlined in IEPs."</p>
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## Entry 10 - Teacher and Administrator Attrition

Completed Jul 29 2022

### Form for "Entry 10 - Teacher and Administrator Attrition" Revised to Employee Fingerprint Requirements Attestation

## **A. TEACH System - Employee Clearance**

Charter schools must ensure that all prospective employees<sup>[1]</sup> receive clearance through [the NYSED Office of School Personnel Review and Accountability](#) (OSPRA) prior to employment. **This includes paraprofessionals and other school personnel who are provided or assigned by the district of location, or related/contracted service providers.** After an employee has been cleared, schools are required to maintain proof of such clearance in the file of each employee. For the safety of all students, charter schools must take immediate steps to terminate the employment of individuals who have been denied clearance. Once the employees have been terminated, the school must terminate the request for clearance in the TEACH system.

In the Annual Report, charter schools are asked to confirm that all employees have been cleared through the NYSED TEACH system; and, if denied clearance, confirm that the individual or employee has been removed from the TEACH system, and is not employed by the school.

<sup>[1]</sup> Employees who must be cleared include, but are not limited to, teachers, administrative staff, janitors, security personnel and cafeteria workers, and other staff who are present when children are in the school building. **This includes paraprofessionals and other school personnel that are provided or assigned by the district of location, as well as related/contracted service providers.** See NYSED memorandum dated October 1, 2019 at [http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/charter-schools/employee\\_fingerprintoct19.pdf](http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/charter-schools/employee_fingerprintoct19.pdf) or visit the NYSED website at: <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tsei/ospa/fingerprintingcharts.html> for more information regarding who must be fingerprinted. Also see, 8 NYCRR §87.2.

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## **B. Emergency Conditional Clearances**

### **Emergency Conditional Clearances**

Charter schools are **strongly discouraged** from using the emergency conditional clearance provisions for prospective employees. This is because the school must request clearance through NYSED TEACH, and the school's emergency conditional clearance of the employee terminates automatically once the school receives notification from NYSED regarding the clearance request. Status notification is provided for all prospective employees through the NYSED TEACH portal within 48 hours after the clearance request is submitted. Therefore, at most, a school's emergency conditional clearance will be valid for only 48 hours after approval by the board.

Schools are not permitted to renew or in any way re-establish a prospective employee's emergency conditional clearance after status notification is sent by NYSED through the TEACH portal.

Schools are asked to attest that they have reviewed and understand these requirements. More information can be found in the memo at [NYSED CSO Employee Clearance and Fingerprint Memo 10-2019](#).

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### **Attestation**

#### **Responses Selected:**

I hereby attest that the school has reviewed, understands, and will comply with these requirements.

## **Entry 11 Percent of Uncertified Teachers**

**Incomplete** Hidden from applicant

### **Instructions**

#### **Required of Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE Authorized Charter Schools ONLY**

The table below reflects the information collected through the online portal for compliance with New York State Education Law 2854(3)(a-1) for teaching staff qualifications. Uncertified teachers are those not certified pursuant to the State Certification Requirements established by the NYSED Commissioner of Education.

Enter the relevant full-time equivalent (FTE) count of teachers in each column. For example, a school with 20 full-time teachers and 5 half-time teachers would have an FTE count of 22.5.

## **Entry 11 Uncertified Teachers**

**School Name:**

# Instructions for Reporting Percent of Uncertified Teachers

## Required of Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE Authorized Charter Schools

The table below reflects the information collected through the online portal for compliance with New York State Education Law 2854(3)(a-1) for teaching staff qualifications. Uncertified teachers are those not certified pursuant to the State Certification Requirements established by the NYSED Commissioner of Education. Enter the relevant full-time equivalent (FTE) count of teachers in each column. For example, a school with 20 full-time teachers and 5 half-time teachers would have an FTE count of 22.5.

If more than one line applies to a teacher, please include in only one FTE uncertified category. Please do not include paraprofessionals, such as teacher aides.

### CATEGORY A. 30% OR 5 UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS WHICHEVER IS LESS

	FTE Count
i. FTE count of uncertified teacher with at least three years of elementary, middle or secondary classroom teaching experience (as of June 30, 2022)	
ii. FTE count of uncertified teachers who are tenured or tenure track college faculty (as of June 30, 2022)	
iii. FTE count of uncertified teachers with two years of Teach for America experience (as of June 30, 2022)	
iv. FTE count of uncertified teachers with exceptional business, professional, artistic, athletic, or military experience (as June 30, 2022)	
Total Category A: 5 or 30% whichever is less	0



**CATEGORY B. PLUS FIVE UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY OR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**

	FTE Count
i. Mathematics	
ii. Science	
iii. Computer Science	
iv. Technology	
v. Career and Technical Education	
Total Category B: not to exceed 5	0

**CATEGORY C: PLUS 5 ADDITIONAL UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS**

	FTE Count
i. FTE count of uncertified teacher with at least three years of elementary, middle or secondary classroom teaching experience (as of June 30, 2022)	
ii. FTE count of uncertified teachers who are tenured or tenure track college faculty (as of June 30, 2022)	
iii. FTE count of uncertified teachers with two years of Teach for America experience (as of June 30, 2022)	
iv. FTE count of uncertified teachers with exceptional business, professional, artistic, athletic, or military experience (as June 30, 2022)	
Total Category C: not to exceed 5	0

### TOTAL FTE COUNT OF UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS (Sum of Categories A, B AND C)

(Include teachers who do not fit in one of these categories or if did fit would exceed the numerical limits for that category)

	FTE Count
Total	

### CATEGORY D: TOTAL FTE COUNT OF UNCATEGORIZED, UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS

(Include teachers who do not fit in one of these categories or if did fit would exceed the numerical limits for that category)

	FTE Count
Total Category D	

### CATEGORY E: TOTAL FTE COUNT OF CERTIFIED TEACHERS

	FTE Count
Total Category E	

### CATEGORY F: TOTAL FTE COUNT OF ALL TEACHERS

Please do not include paraprofessionals, such as teacher aides.

	FTE Count
Total Category F	

Thank you.



## Entry 12 Organization Chart

**Incomplete** Hidden from applicant

## Instructions

### **Required of Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE Authorized Charter Schools ONLY**

Upload the 2021-2022 **Organization Chart**. The organization chart should include position titles and reporting relationships. Employee names should **not** appear on the chart.

## Entry 13 School Calendar

Completed Jul 29 2022

### [Instructions for submitting School Calendar](#)

#### **Required of ALL Charter Schools**

If the charter school has a tentative calendar based on available information and guidance at the time, please submit with the August 1, 2022 submission. Charter schools must upload a final school calendar into the portal and may do so at any time but no later than **September 15, 2022**.

School calendars must meet the [minimum instructional requirements](#) as required of other public schools “... *unless the school’s charter requires more instructional time than is required under the regulations.*”

Board of Regents-authorized charter schools also are required to submit school calendars that clearly indicate the start and end date of the instructional year AND the number of instructional hours and/or instructional days for each month. See an example of a calendar showing the requested information. Schools are encouraged to use a calendar template and ensure there is a monthly tally of instructional days.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a required task, and it is marked optional for administrative purposes only.**

### **K-12 Academic Calendar SY 22-23 - Google Docs**

Filename: K 12 Academic Calendar SY 22 23 VcUJkat.pdf Size: 46.8 kB

## Entry 14 Links to Critical Documents on School Website

Completed Jul 29 2022

### Instructions

#### **Required of ALL Charter Schools noting that SUNY-authorized charter schools are not required to submit item 5: Authorizer-approved DASA policy and NYSED-Approved School Discipline Policy**

By law, each charter school is required to maintain certain notices and policies listed on its website. Please insert the [link](#) from the school’s website for each of the items:

1. Current Annual Report (i.e., 2021-2022 Annual Report);[\[1\]](#)
2. Board meeting notices, agendas and documents;
3. New York State School Report Card;
4. Authorizer-approved DASA Policy and NYSED-Approved School Discipline Policy **(For Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY)**;
5. District-wide safety plan, not a building level safety plan (as per the September 2021 [Emergency Response Plan Memo](#));
6. Authorizer-approved FOIL Policy; and
7. Subject matter list of FOIL records. (Example: See [NYSED Subject Matter List](#))

[1] Each charter school is required to make the Annual Report publicly available by August 1 and to post on their respective charter school website. Each school should post an updated and complete version to include accountability data and financial statements that are not or may not be available until after the August deadline (i.e., Repost when financials have been submitted in November.)

## Form for Entry 14 Links to Critical Documents on School Website

**School Name:** Cypress Hills Ascend Charter School

**Required of ALL Charter Schools noting that SUNY-authorized charter schools are not required to submit item 4: Authorizer-approved DASA policy and NYSED-Approved School Discipline Policy**

**By law, each charter school is required to maintain certain notices and policies listed on its website. Please insert the link from the school's website for each of the items:**

	Link to Documents
1. Current Annual Report (i.e., 2021-2022 Annual Report)	<a href="https://www.ascendlearning.org/governance">https://www.ascendlearning.org/governance</a>
2. Board meeting notices, agendas and documents	<a href="https://www.ascendlearning.org/governance">https://www.ascendlearning.org/governance</a>
3. New York State School Report Card	<a href="https://data.nysed.gov/essa.php?year=2021&amp;instid=800000089574">https://data.nysed.gov/essa.php?year=2021&amp;instid=800000089574</a>
4. Authorizer-approved DASA Policy and NYSED-Approved School Discipline Policy (For Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY)	<a href="https://cdn.sanity.io/files/8xh3l9l7/production/590f803ea8c7509dd6f3c389e7ea378bbcdf2c39.pdf">https://cdn.sanity.io/files/8xh3l9l7/production/590f803ea8c7509dd6f3c389e7ea378bbcdf2c39.pdf</a>
5. District-wide safety plan, not a building level safety plan (as per the September 2021 Emergency Response Plan Memo	<a href="https://cdn.sanity.io/files/8xh3l9l7/production/68003d0b53a9dbd5b598bb695eb2b33590713626.pdf">https://cdn.sanity.io/files/8xh3l9l7/production/68003d0b53a9dbd5b598bb695eb2b33590713626.pdf</a>
6. Authorizer-approved FOIL Policy	<a href="https://cdn.sanity.io/files/8xh3l9l7/production/73b4243c21b85c4c82a8c1d6a609bc8af6e990cf.pdf">https://cdn.sanity.io/files/8xh3l9l7/production/73b4243c21b85c4c82a8c1d6a609bc8af6e990cf.pdf</a>
7. Subject matter list of FOIL records. (Example: See NYSED Subject Matter List)	<a href="https://cdn.sanity.io/files/8xh3l9l7/production/73b4243c21b85c4c82a8c1d6a609bc8af6e990cf.pdf">https://cdn.sanity.io/files/8xh3l9l7/production/73b4243c21b85c4c82a8c1d6a609bc8af6e990cf.pdf</a>

Thank you.



## Entry 15 Staff Roster

**Incomplete** Hidden from applicant

### INSTRUCTIONS

#### **Required of Regents and NYCDOE-authorized Charter Schools ONLY**

Please click on the MS Excel [Faculty/Staff Roster Template](#) and provide the following information for **ANY and ALL** instructional and non-instructional employees.

**Use of the 2021-2022 Annual Report Faculty/Staff roster template is required. Each of the data elements, with the exception of the Notes, are required, and use of the drop-down options, when provided, is also required. Reminders:** Please use the notes section provided to add any additional information as deemed necessary. Failure to adhere to the guidelines and validations in the Staff Roster Template will result in a resubmission of a fully corrected roster.

Please note the roster should include all staff employed any point from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, including those employed on June 30th.

# **Ascend Charter Schools**

Financial Statements and  
Uniform Guidance Schedules  
Together With Independent Auditors' Reports

June 30, 2022 and 2021

**Ascend Charter Schools**  
Financial Statements and  
Uniform Guidance Schedules  
Together With Independent Auditors' Reports  
  
June 30, 2022 and 2021

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## **Independent Auditors' Report**

**Board of Trustees**  
**Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ascend Charter Schools (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2022 and 2021, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ascend Charter Schools as of June 30, 2022 and 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Ascend Charter Schools and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Ascend Charter Schools' ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.



***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Ascend Charter Schools' internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Ascend Charter Schools' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

**Report on Supplementary Information**

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedules of activities and functional expenses by school, for the year ended June 30, 2022 on pages 21 through 30 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards on pages 31 and 32 as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole

**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 25, 2022, on our consideration of Ascend Charter Schools' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Ascend Charter Schools' internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Ascend Charter Schools' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP*

Harrison, New York  
November 25, 2022

# Ascend Charter Schools

## Statements of Financial Position

	June 30,	
	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12,128,307	\$ 20,713,239
Certificates of deposit	15,013,898	5,001,751
Grants and contracts receivable	10,274,467	3,465,648
Due from related party	2,468,211	851,105
Prepaid expenses	590,625	510,686
Total Current Assets	40,475,508	30,542,429
Property and equipment, net	14,933,943	13,981,838
Security deposits	532,545	332,545
Restricted cash	325,296	325,243
	<u>\$ 56,267,292</u>	<u>\$ 45,182,055</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 3,563,036	\$ 1,902,515
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	4,129,421	3,899,174
Refundable advances	1,790,602	34,342
Loan payable, current portion	136,774	128,508
Deferred rent, current portion	1,931,928	1,517,581
Due to related party	4,187,541	191,028
Total Current Liabilities	15,739,302	7,673,148
Due to related party	-	947,317
Loan payable	1,939,040	2,074,541
Deferred rent	28,355,955	26,030,153
Total Liabilities	46,034,297	36,725,159
Net assets, without donor restrictions	<u>10,232,995</u>	<u>8,456,896</u>
	<u>\$ 56,267,292</u>	<u>\$ 45,182,055</u>

See notes to financial statements

# Ascend Charter Schools

## Statements of Activities

	Year Ended June 30,	
	2022	2021
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
State and local per pupil operating revenue		
General and special education	\$ 106,041,716	\$ 107,347,482
Facilities	14,237,165	13,124,972
Federal grants	14,223,586	6,359,560
Federal E-Rate and IDEA	2,132,471	1,451,072
State grants	572,852	349,107
	<u>137,207,790</u>	<u>128,632,193</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services		
Regular education	92,689,844	76,900,751
Special education	19,232,277	18,256,984
Total Program Services	111,922,121	95,157,735
Supporting Services		
Management and general	23,743,462	21,389,766
	<u>135,665,583</u>	<u>116,547,501</u>
Total Expenses		
	<u>135,665,583</u>	<u>116,547,501</u>
Surplus from Operations	1,542,207	12,084,692
<b>SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE</b>		
Contributions	6,940	1,258,500
Rental income	200,000	135,000
Interest and other revenue	26,952	45,675
Total Support and Other Revenue	233,892	1,439,175
	<u>233,892</u>	<u>1,439,175</u>
Change in Net Assets	1,776,099	13,523,867
<b>NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)</b>		
Beginning of year	8,456,896	(5,066,971)
	<u>8,456,896</u>	<u>(5,066,971)</u>
End of year	\$ 10,232,995	\$ 8,456,896
	<u>\$ 10,232,995</u>	<u>\$ 8,456,896</u>

See notes to financial statements

## Ascend Charter Schools

### Statement of Functional Expenses Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Program Services		Management and General	Total
		Regular Education	Special Education		
<b>Personnel Services Costs</b>					
Administrative staff personnel	125	\$ 4,637,986	\$ 1,082,502	\$ 5,369,543	\$ 11,090,031
Instructional personnel	521	37,519,821	7,941,104	-	45,460,925
Non-instructional personnel	23	-	-	996,317	996,317
<b>Total Personnel Services Costs</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>42,157,807</b>	<b>9,023,606</b>	<b>6,365,860</b>	<b>57,547,273</b>
<b>Employee benefits and payroll taxes</b>					
Professional fees		8,876,649	2,134,495	1,502,945	12,514,089
Management fees		2,315,938	319,510	1,028,633	3,664,081
Consultants - education		5,671,336	907,272	9,466,776	16,045,384
Legal fees		584,454	242,115	-	826,569
Curriculum and classroom supplies		4,281,895	-	33,325	33,325
Office supplies		-	423,637	-	4,705,532
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		-	-	482,216	482,216
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		278,657	62,362	47,377	388,396
Communications		431,708	105,208	74,377	611,293
Occupancy		3,366,789	465,480	338,529	4,170,798
Insurance		18,858,075	4,308,266	3,266,267	26,432,608
Repairs and maintenance		467,212	112,021	75,537	654,770
Security		789,922	145,976	135,190	1,071,088
Marketing and recruiting		1,605	233	252	2,090
Staff development		161,740	41,392	21,797	224,929
Travel and meals		359,991	52,880	21,891	434,762
Postage, printing and copying		911,443	164,309	90,197	1,165,949
Dues and subscriptions		76,991	20,017	14,063	111,071
Depreciation and amortization		575,862	139,154	97,628	812,644
Interest		2,423,733	544,521	424,282	3,392,536
Miscellaneous		98,037	19,823	17,370	135,230
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 92,689,844</b>	<b>\$ 19,232,277</b>	<b>\$ 23,743,462</b>	<b>\$ 135,665,583</b>

See notes to financial statements

## Ascend Charter Schools

### Statement of Functional Expenses Year Ended June 30, 2021

	No. of Positions	Program Services			Management and General	Total
		Regular Education	Special Education	Total		
<b>Personnel Services Costs</b>						
Administrative staff personnel	84	\$ 4,419,203	\$ 1,100,240	\$ 5,519,443	\$ 4,747,903	\$ 10,267,346
Instructional personnel	551	31,895,130	7,928,067	39,823,197	-	39,823,197
Non-instructional personnel	30	-	-	-	881,136	881,136
<b>Total Personnel Services Costs</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>36,314,333</b>	<b>9,028,307</b>	<b>45,342,640</b>	<b>5,629,039</b>	<b>50,971,679</b>
<b>Employee benefits and payroll taxes</b>						
Professional fees		7,801,847	1,951,611	9,753,458	1,205,248	10,958,706
Management fees		974,422	251,862	1,226,284	500,281	1,726,565
Consultants - education		5,771,778	805,156	6,576,934	9,464,368	16,041,302
Legal fees		167,017	21,742	188,759	-	188,759
Curriculum and classroom supplies		-	-	-	69,143	69,143
Office supplies		1,176,469	153,651	1,330,120	-	1,330,120
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		-	-	-	152,936	152,936
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		497,617	120,571	618,188	79,912	698,100
Communications		491,679	124,702	616,381	75,170	691,551
Occupancy		1,233,298	311,760	1,545,058	196,273	1,741,331
Insurance		18,353,503	4,442,904	22,796,407	3,009,264	25,805,671
Repairs and maintenance		426,710	104,251	530,961	62,304	593,265
Security		469,547	128,465	598,012	72,250	670,262
Marketing and recruiting		12,259	3,047	15,306	1,812	17,118
Staff development		64,132	16,173	80,305	10,084	90,389
Travel and meals		178,320	46,749	225,069	14,438	239,507
Postage, printing and copying		252,887	52,773	305,660	24,552	330,212
Dues and subscriptions		33,756	7,601	41,357	5,469	46,826
Depreciation and amortization		282,122	69,961	352,083	43,870	395,953
Interest		2,273,908	578,487	2,852,395	358,468	3,210,863
Miscellaneous		125,147	37,211	162,358	18,853	181,211
		-	-	-	396,032	396,032
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 76,900,751</b>	<b>\$ 18,256,984</b>	<b>\$ 95,157,735</b>	<b>\$ 21,389,766</b>	<b>\$ 116,547,501</b>

See notes to financial statements

# Ascend Charter Schools

## Statements of Cash Flows

	Year Ended June 30,	
	2022	2021
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ 1,776,099	\$ 13,523,867
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization	3,392,536	3,210,863
Deferred rent	2,740,149	4,549,995
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Grants and contracts receivable	(6,808,819)	(471,800)
Due from related party	(1,617,106)	(660,077)
Prepaid expenses	(79,939)	428,222
Security deposits	(200,000)	(531)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,660,521	785,529
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	230,247	(1,216,896)
Refundable advances	1,756,260	(150,400)
Due to related party	3,049,196	(1,787,896)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	<u>5,899,144</u>	<u>18,210,876</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(4,344,641)	(5,417,118)
Purchase of certificates of deposit	(10,012,147)	(5,001,751)
Net Cash from Investing Activities	<u>(14,356,788)</u>	<u>(10,418,869)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITY</b>		
Principal payments of loan payable	<u>(127,235)</u>	<u>(89,548)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Restricted Cash	(8,584,879)	7,702,459
<b>CASH AND RESTRICTED CASH</b>		
Beginning of year	<u>21,038,482</u>	<u>13,336,023</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 12,453,603</u>	<u>\$ 21,038,482</u>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>		
Cash paid during the year for interest	\$ 135,230	\$ 181,211

See notes to financial statements

## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2022 and 2021**

#### **1. Organization and Tax Status**

Ascend Charter Schools (collectively the “School”) is a New York State, not-for-profit educational corporation that was incorporated to operate a Charter School pursuant to Article 56 of the Education Law of the State of New York. The School’s mission is to equip their students with the knowledge, confidence and character to succeed in college and beyond.

The accompanying financial statements include the following charter schools collectively forming the School:

Brooklyn Ascend Charter School (“Brooklyn Ascend”) – Brooklyn Ascend was granted a provisional charter on January 15, 2008 valid for a term of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. Brooklyn Ascend obtained a renewal to its charter expiring on June 30, 2023.

Brownsville Ascend Charter School (“Brownsville Ascend”) – Brownsville Ascend was granted a provisional charter on January 13, 2009 valid for a term of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. Brownsville Ascend obtained a renewal to its charter expiring on June 30, 2023.

Bushwick Ascend Charter School (“Bushwick Ascend”) – Bushwick Ascend was granted a provisional charter on February 9, 2010 valid for a term of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. Bushwick Ascend obtained a renewal to its charter expiring on June 30, 2023.

Canarsie Ascend Charter School (“Canarsie Ascend”) – Canarsie Ascend was granted a provisional charter on September 13, 2011 valid for a term of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. Canarsie Ascend obtained a renewal to its charter expiring on July 31, 2023.

Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter School (“Central Brooklyn Ascend”) – Central Brooklyn Ascend was granted a provisional charter on January 1, 2013 valid for a term of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. Central Brooklyn Ascend obtained a renewal to its charter expiring on July 31, 2024.

Cypress Hills Ascend Charter School (“Cypress Hills Ascend”) – Cypress Hills Ascend was granted a provisional charter on July 19, 2017 valid for a term of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. This charter will expire on July 31, 2023.

East Brooklyn Ascend Charter School (“East Brooklyn Ascend”) – East Brooklyn Ascend was granted a provisional charter on July 19, 2017 valid for a term of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. This charter will expire on July 31, 2023.



## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Notes to Financial Statements**

June 30, 2022 and 2021

#### **1. Organization and Tax Status (*continued*)**

East Flatbush Ascend Charter School ("East Flatbush Ascend") – East Flatbush Ascend was granted a provisional charter on October 19, 2018 valid for terms of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. This charter will expire on October 31, 2024.

Flatbush Ascend Charter School ("Flatbush Ascend") – Flatbush Ascend, previously named Lefferts Gardens Ascend, was granted a provisional charter on October 19, 2018 valid for terms of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. This charter will expire on October 31, 2024.

On March 8, 2019, the School was granted a provisional charter to operate Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 6, valid for a term of five years and renewable upon expiration by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. The School is in discussion with its Authorizer to extend the provisional charter by two years.

The School provided education to approximately 5,750 students in kindergarten through twelfth grades during the 2021-2022 academic year.

The School used outside vendors to serve breakfast and lunch to its students and files for reimbursement of expenses through the New York State and Federal school food program. The School covers the cost of breakfast and lunch for families who experience hardship and who do not qualify for free or reduced meals. The Office of Pupil Transportation provides free transportation to some of the students.

Except for taxes that may be due for unrelated business income, the School is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and from state and local income taxes under comparable laws.

#### **2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### ***Basis of Presentation and Use of Estimates***

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"), which requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Accordingly actual results could differ from those estimates.

##### ***Net Assets Presentation***

Resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into net asset categories established according to nature and purpose as follows:

*Net assets without donor restrictions* - consist of resources available for the general support of the School's operations. Net assets without donor restrictions may be used at the discretion of the School's management and/or the Board of Trustees.

## Ascend Charter Schools

### Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2022 and 2021

## 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

### ***Net Assets Presentation (continued)***

*Net assets with donor restrictions* – represents amounts restricted by donors for specific activities of the School or to be used at a future date. The School records contributions as net assets with donor restrictions if they are received with donor stipulations that limit their use either through purpose or time restrictions. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a time restriction ends or a purpose restriction is fulfilled, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions. The School had no net assets with donor restrictions at June 30, 2022 and 2021.

### ***Cash Equivalents***

The School considers all cash-on-hand, cash in banks, and other short-term securities with maturities of three months or less at time of purchase to be cash and cash equivalents.

### ***Restricted Cash***

Under the provisions of its charter, the School established an escrow account to pay for legal and audit expenses that would be associated with a dissolution, should it occur.

The following table provides a reconciliation of cash and restricted cash reported within the statements of financial position to the amounts presented in the statements of cash flows at June 30:

	2022	2021
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12,128,307	\$ 20,713,239
Restricted cash	<u>325,296</u>	<u>325,243</u>
	<u>\$ 12,453,603</u>	<u>\$ 21,038,482</u>

### ***Certificate of Deposit***

Certificate of deposit are carried at cost plus accrued interest.

### ***Property and Equipment***

The School follows the practice of capitalizing all expenditures for property and equipment with costs in excess of \$5,000 and a useful life in excess of one year. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the term of the lease, inclusive of all renewal periods, which are reasonably assured, or the estimated useful life of the asset. Purchased property and equipment are recorded at cost at the date of acquisition. Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. All property and equipment purchased with government funding is capitalized, unless the government agency retains legal title to such assets, in which case such assets are expensed as incurred.

## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Notes to Financial Statements**

June 30, 2022 and 2021

## **2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

### ***Property and Equipment (continued)***

Depreciation and amortization is recognized on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of such assets as follows:

Computers and technology	3 years
Equipment	3 and 5 years
Furniture and fixtures	5 and 7 years
Software	3 years
Website development	3 years

Property and equipment are reviewed for impairment if the use of the asset significantly changes or another indicator of possible impairment is identified. If the carrying amount of the asset is not recoverable, the asset is written down to its fair value. There were no asset impairments for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021.

### ***Refundable Advances***

The School records certain government grants and contracts as refundable advances until the related services are performed, at which time it is recognized as revenue.

### ***Deferred Rent***

The School records its rent in accordance with U.S. GAAP whereby all rental payments, including fixed rent increases, are recognized on a straight-line basis. The difference between the straight-line rent expense and the required lease payments, as well as any unamortized lease incentives, is reflected in deferred rent in the accompanying statements of financial position.

### ***Revenue and Support***

Revenue from state and local governments resulting from the School's charter status and based on the number of students enrolled is recorded when services are performed in accordance with the charter agreement. Federal and other state and local funds are recorded when expenditures are incurred and billable to the government agency. Contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give to the School that is, in substance, unconditional. Grants and other contributions of cash are reported as net assets with donor restrictions if they are received with donor stipulations. Restricted contributions and grants that are made to support the School's current year activities are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions. Contributions of assets other than cash are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation.

### ***Marketing and Recruiting***

Marketing and recruiting costs are expensed as incurred for staff and student recruitment. Accordingly, all costs in marketing and recruitment are allocated to program and management and general expenditures and expensed as incurred. Marketing and recruiting expense for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021 was \$224,929 and \$90,389.

## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2022 and 2021**

#### **2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)**

##### ***Measure of Operations***

The statements of activities reports all changes in net assets, including changes in net assets from operating and non-operating activities. Operating activities consist of those items attributable to the School's ongoing services. Non-operating activities include revenue and support from non-governmental and other sources that include contributions revenue, rental income, return on investments and other activities considered to be of a non-recurring nature.

##### ***Functional Expense Allocation***

The majority of expenses can generally be directly identified with the program or supporting service to which they relate and are charged accordingly. Other expenses by function have been allocated among program and supporting services classifications on the basis of periodic time and expense studies and other basis as determined by management of the School to be appropriate.

##### ***Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes***

The School recognizes the effect of income tax positions only if those positions are more likely than not to be sustained. Management has determined that the School had no uncertain tax positions that would require financial statement recognition or disclosure. The School is no longer subject to examinations by the applicable taxing jurisdictions for years prior to June 30, 2019.

##### ***Subsequent Events Evaluation by Management***

Management has evaluated subsequent events for disclosure and/or recognition in the financial statements through the date that the financial statements were available to be issued, which date is November 25, 2022.

#### **3. Grants and Contracts Receivable**

Grants and contracts receivable consist of federal, state, city entitlements and grants. The School expects to collect these receivables within one year. Management has assessed the need for an allowance and has determined that such an allowance is not necessary.

#### **4. Related Party Transactions (not disclosed elsewhere)**

The School is an affiliate of Ascend Learning, Inc. ("Ascend"), a New York State not-for-profit corporation, by common management. The School entered into a one year agreement with Ascend on July 1, 2021 which calls for Ascend to design, select and implement the School's educational program as well as the professional development activities for all the School personnel; recruit, supervise and evaluate the School's director; propose employment policies and practices relating to School personnel; and manage the School's business administration.

## Ascend Charter Schools

### Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2022 and 2021

#### 4. Related Party Transactions (not disclosed elsewhere) (continued)

For the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021, each charter school paid Ascend an annual fee of 13.25% of the School's per pupil operating revenue, per pupil facilities revenue and federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act revenue. The management fee for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021 amounted to \$16,045,384 and \$16,041,302.

The School entered into a sublease agreement with Ascend on July 1, 2011. There are two amendments to the agreement. The terms of the agreement permit Ascend to use the 6th floor of one of the buildings that the School occupies. Ascend increased use of the floor over the term of the lease, and rent increased accordingly. Rental income for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021 amounted to \$200,000 and \$135,000.

The School is an affiliate of Friends of Ascend Charter Schools, Inc. ("FOA"), a New York State not-for-profit corporation, by common management. FOA's purpose is to support the operation of the School by managing the School's real estate and facilities-related needs, and by raising funds and resources that will enable FOA to provide support to the School and to enhance the experience of the School's students. The School entered into sublease agreements with FOA for classroom facilities (Note 10).

For operational efficiency and purchasing power, the School shares certain operating expenses with Ascend and FOA. The net balance due from/(to) the related parties consisted of the following at June 30:

	2022	2021
Ascend	\$ (4,187,541)	\$ (1,138,345)
FOA	2,468,211	851,105
	<u>\$ (1,719,330)</u>	<u>\$ (287,240)</u>

#### 5. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consist of the following as of June 30:

	2022	2021
Computers and technology	\$ 9,718,495	\$ 8,151,578
Equipment	1,384,073	1,193,963
Furniture and fixtures	4,761,068	4,660,284
Software	219,000	118,365
Website development	143,277	143,277
Leasehold improvements	12,747,862	12,989,802
Construction in progress	2,628,135	-
	31,601,910	27,257,269
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>(16,667,967)</u>	<u>(13,275,431)</u>
	<u>\$ 14,933,943</u>	<u>\$ 13,981,838</u>

## Ascend Charter Schools

### Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2022 and 2021

#### 5. Property and Equipment (*continued*)

Construction-in-progress at June 30, 2022 is primarily comprised of costs related to the Rockaway Parkway and Pitkin Avenue facilities which are expected to be placed into service during the years ending June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024 (See Note 10).

#### 6. Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use within one year of the statement of financial position date, are comprised of the following at June 30:

	2022	2021
Cash	\$ 12,128,307	\$ 20,713,239
Certificates of deposit	15,013,898	5,001,751
Grants and contracts receivable	10,274,467	3,465,648
Due from related party	2,468,211	851,105
	<u>\$ 39,884,883</u>	<u>\$ 30,031,743</u>

As part of the School's liquidity management plan, the status of grants and contracts receivable is monitored regularly and any excess cash is held in savings accounts and other liquid instruments until it is required for operational use. The School will continue to rely on funding received from the New York City Department of Education to cover its future operating costs (See Note 9).

#### 7. Employee Benefit Plan

The School maintains a pension plan qualified under Internal Revenue Code 403(b), for the benefit of its eligible employees. Under the plan, the School will match employee contributions ranging from 1% to 5% of annual compensation. Total employer match for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021 was \$946,803 and \$625,116.

#### 8. Concentration of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject the School to concentrations of credit and market risk consist principally of cash, cash equivalents, and certificates of deposit on deposit with financial institutions, which from time to time may exceed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") limit. The School does not believe that a significant risk of loss due to the failure of a financial institution presently exists. At June 30, 2022 and 2021, approximately \$26,630,000 and \$25,715,000 of cash was maintained with an institution in excess of FDIC limits.

## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2022 and 2021**

#### **9. Concentration of Revenue and Support**

The School receives a substantial portion of its revenue and support from the New York City Department of Education. For the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021, the School received approximately 88% and 93% of total revenue and support from the New York City Department of Education. If the charter school laws were modified, reducing or eliminating these revenues, the School's finances could be materially adversely affected.

#### **10. Commitments**

##### **School Facilities**

###### **Brooklyn Ascend**

On March 19, 2008, Brooklyn Ascend entered into an agreement to lease property at 205 Rockaway Parkway, Brooklyn, New York for a period of 15 years. The landlord has renovated the facility to conform to the School's specifications in phases. As of June 30, 2022, Brooklyn Ascend has reimbursed the landlord a total of \$3,508,850 for these renovations which are classified as leasehold improvements under property and equipment in the statements of financial position. Pursuant to the fourth lease amendment, annual fixed rent will be reduced for years 8 through 15 due to deletion of certain projects. On July 28, 2016, Brooklyn Ascend signed a fifth amendment to renew the lease for 10 years. The renewal period commences on September 1, 2023.

On January 19, 2011, Brooklyn Ascend entered into an agreement to lease property at 123 East 98<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York for a period of 20 years. This location became the home of Brooklyn Ascend Middle School starting with the 2012-2013 academic year.

On July 2, 2012, Brooklyn Ascend entered into an agreement as a co-lessee with Brownsville Ascend to become a future tenant located at 1501 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. The occupancy period for the School is 17 years of the 20 year lease agreement. The facility became the home of Brooklyn Ascend High School, which began with the 2015-2016 academic year. The space is shared with Brownsville Ascend.

Pursuant to each facility lease agreement, the School will also reimburse the landlords for the proportionate share of the real estate taxes and any other costs associated with the leasing of the premises.

###### **Brownsville Ascend**

On June 22, 2010, Brownsville Ascend entered into an agreement to lease property at 1501 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. As per the terms of the agreement, the lease is for 20 years, renewable for up to 20 additional years. There are seven amendments to the agreement as well as an additional letter agreement related to roof play space. Effective as of the fourth amendment, Brooklyn Ascend entered into the agreement as a co-lessee, and effective as of the 2015-2016 academic year, Brooklyn Ascend High School became a co-tenant of the building. Both schools will reimburse the landlord for their share of real estate taxes. Brownsville Ascend moved into the new permanent lease facility on August 20, 2012.

## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2022 and 2021**

#### **10. Commitments (*continued*)**

##### **School Facilities (*continued*)**

###### **Bushwick Ascend**

On July 29, 2011, the School entered into an agreement to lease property at 741-757 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, New York for a period of 20 years, with a renewal option for an additional ten years. The lease provides for rent escalations and the School is responsible for utilities, real estate taxes and other operating expenses. As part of the agreement, the School has the right to mortgage its interest in the lease under a leasehold mortgage and assign the lease as collateral security for such leasehold mortgage. The facility is currently tax exempt, but the School will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy.

On March 30, 2015, the School entered into an agreement to lease property at 2 Aberdeen Street, Brooklyn, New York. As per the terms of the agreement, the lease is for a period of 30 years, commencing on June 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2045. This location became the home of Bushwick Ascend Middle School starting with the 2015-2016 academic year. The facility is currently tax exempt, but the School will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy.

On May 18, 2018, the two Bushwick Ascend leases were transferred to FOA and a new sublease agreement between FOA (sublandlord) and the School (subtenant) was entered into for a period of 28 years ending on June 30, 2045.

###### **Canarsie Ascend**

On April 1, 2013, Canarsie Ascend entered into an agreement to lease property at 9719 Flatlands Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. As per the terms of the agreement, the lease is for 20 years, renewable for up to 10 additional years. The facility is currently tax exempt, but Canarsie Ascend will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy.

On August 30, 2017, Canarsie Ascend entered into an agreement to lease property at 744 East 87<sup>th</sup> Street and 751 East 86<sup>th</sup> Street in Brooklyn, New York for a period of 30 years, commencing on June 15, 2017 and ending June 30, 2047.

The property is currently exempt from real estate taxes, but the School will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy. On September 12, 2017, the lease agreement was transferred to FOA and a new sublease agreement between FOA (sublandlord) and the School (subtenant) was executed for a period of 30 years ending on June 30, 2047.

###### **Central Brooklyn Ascend**

On November 3, 2014, the School entered into an agreement to lease property at 465 East 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York. As per the terms of the agreement, the lease is for 30 years, commencing on June 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2045.



## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2022 and 2021**

#### **10. Commitments (*continued*)**

##### **School Facilities (*continued*)**

###### Central Brooklyn Ascend (*continued*)

The property is currently exempt from real estate taxes, but the School will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy. On September 12, 2017, the lease agreement was transferred to FOA and a new sublease agreement between FOA (sublandlord) and the School (subtenant) was executed for a period of 28 years ending on June 30, 2045.

On September 12, 2017, the School entered into an agreement with FOA to sublease property at 1886 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. As per the terms of the agreement, the lease is for 28 years, commencing on August 15, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2045. The property is currently exempt from real estate taxes, but the School will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy.

###### Cypress Hills Ascend

On February 22, 2018, the School entered into an agreement with FOA to sublease property at 396 Grant Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. As per the terms of the agreement, the lease is for 30 years, commencing on February 1, 2018 and ending on June 30, 2048. The property is currently exempt from real estate taxes, but the School will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy.

###### East Brooklyn Ascend

On December 4, 2018, the School entered into an agreement with FOA to sublease property at 260 Shepherd Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. As per the terms of the agreement, the lease is for 29 years, commencing on July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2048. The property is currently exempt from real estate taxes, but the School will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy.

###### East Flatbush Ascend

On March 11, 2019, the School entered into an agreement with FOA to sublease property at 870 Albany Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. As per the terms of the agreement, the lease is for 29 years, commencing on July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2048. The property is currently exempt from real estate taxes, but the School will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy.

###### Flatbush Ascend

On April 1, 2020, the School entered into an agreement with FOA to sublease property at 123 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York. As per the terms of the agreement, the lease is for 19 years, commencing on July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2039. The property is currently exempt from real estate taxes, but the School will be responsible for any real estate taxes arising out of the School's occupancy.

## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2022 and 2021**

#### **10. Commitments (*continued*)**

##### **School Facilities (*continued*)**

Future minimum lease payments under the facility leases (including the subleases with FOA) are as follows for the years ending June 30:

2023	\$ 22,201,821
2024	22,726,540
2025	22,999,942
2026	23,226,495
2027	23,696,940
Thereafter	<u>368,048,503</u>
	<u>\$ 482,900,241</u>

Rent expense is recognized on the straight-line basis over the term of the lease. The difference between cash payments under the lease agreements and the straight-line rent has been recognized as deferred rent in the accompanying statements of financial position from inception of the lease. The difference between rent cash payments and straight-line rent included in occupancy expense in the accompanying statements of functional expenses amounted to \$2,740,149 and \$4,549,995 for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021.

Occupancy expense for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021 was \$26,432,608 and \$25,805,671.

#### **11. Loan Payable**

On October 17, 2019, the School entered into a \$2,500,000 loan agreement with Nonprofit Finance Fund ("NFF") for the purpose of financing the cost of renovations and improvements to the building leased by the School at 1501 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. The loan matures on November 1, 2026, at which time the School can either pay the outstanding balance on the loan in full or refinance. The loan is payable on a monthly basis in the amount of \$21,872 commencing on July 1, 2020 and the loan bears interest at 6.25% per annum. The loan is guaranteed by the School and secured on the leasehold interests of the School in the building. In addition, the School has granted a security interest in all of its other assets to secure the loan. Loan payments will be due on the first day of each succeeding month thereafter, until all amounts due under the loans are paid in full. The loan is a commitment that cannot be assigned without prior written approval from NFF.

The School must maintain five financial performance covenants all of which were assessed starting with the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. For the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021, the School is in compliance with all financial covenants.

## Ascend Charter Schools

### Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2022 and 2021

#### 11. Loan Payable (*continued*)

Future minimum principal payments on the loan are as follows for years ended June 30:

2023	\$	136,774
2024		145,572
2025		154,935
2026		164,901
2027		<u>1,473,632</u>
	\$	<u>2,075,814</u>

#### 12. Contingency

Certain grants and contracts may be subject to audit by the funding sources. Such audits might result in disallowances of costs submitted for reimbursement. Management is of the opinion that such cost disallowances, if any, will not have a material effect on the accompanying financial statements. Accordingly, no amounts have been provided in the accompanying financial statements for such potential claims.

From time to time and in the ordinary course of business, the School may be subject to various claims, charges, and litigation. In the opinion of management, final judgement from such pending claims, charges, and litigations, if any, against the School would not have a material adverse effect on the School's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

#### 13. Risks and Uncertainties

The School's operations and financial performance may be affected by the recent COVID-19 outbreak which has spread globally and is expected to adversely affect economic conditions throughout the world. If the outbreak continues and conditions worsen, the School may experience a disruption in operations as well as a decline in revenue activities. Economic uncertainty is related to the potential reduction and/or delays in state and local per pupil operating revenue, shortfalls and variations in enrollment, and operational and other changes that could increase expenses. The outbreak may adversely affect the School's activities, financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows. Management is closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and believes the School is taking appropriate actions to mitigate the negative impact. However, management is unable to estimate the financial impact, if any, related to this matter.

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# **Ascend Charter Schools**

Supplementary Information

June 30, 2022

**Ascend Charter Schools**

Schedule of Activities by School  
Year Ended June 30, 2022

	Brooklyn Ascend	Brownsville Ascend	Bushwick Ascend	Canarsie Ascend	Central Brooklyn Ascend	Cypress Hills Ascend	East Brooklyn Ascend	East Flatbush Ascend	Flatbush Ascend	Total
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>										
State and local per pupil operating revenue	\$ 27,592,179	\$ 17,086,533	\$ 15,035,716	\$ 18,266,717	\$ 14,205,129	\$ 6,006,092	\$ 1,208,387	\$ 3,624,461	\$ 3,023,502	\$ 106,041,716
General and special education	2,385,888	1,431,149	1,261,992	2,699,808	2,840,142	1,485,176	346,478	971,041	835,491	14,237,165
Facilities	3,261,157	2,196,793	2,280,085	2,239,443	1,848,016	987,032	295,730	505,706	609,624	14,223,586
Federal grants	464,607	263,821	335,979	282,857	312,866	157,466	95,565	121,101	98,209	2,132,471
Federal E-Rate and IDEA	71,884	259,858	63,938	76,163	70,967	10,909	-	10,884	8,249	572,852
State and city grants										
Total Operating Revenue	<u>33,765,715</u>	<u>21,238,154</u>	<u>18,980,710</u>	<u>23,564,988</u>	<u>19,277,120</u>	<u>8,626,675</u>	<u>1,946,160</u>	<u>5,233,193</u>	<u>4,575,075</u>	<u>137,207,790</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Program Services										
Regular education	24,693,469	13,828,494	9,616,348	14,092,514	12,353,336	6,325,866	2,502,369	3,904,469	5,372,979	92,689,844
Special education	3,303,606	2,867,669	5,331,350	2,568,748	2,344,116	1,005,188	738,913	769,852	302,835	19,232,277
Total Program Services	27,997,075	16,696,163	14,947,698	16,661,262	14,697,452	7,331,054	3,241,282	4,674,321	5,675,814	111,922,121
Supporting Services										
Management and general	5,696,722	3,774,324	3,048,301	3,971,829	2,980,426	1,404,947	796,766	1,118,245	951,902	23,743,462
Total Expenses	<u>33,693,797</u>	<u>20,470,487</u>	<u>17,995,999</u>	<u>20,633,091</u>	<u>17,677,878</u>	<u>8,736,001</u>	<u>4,038,048</u>	<u>5,792,566</u>	<u>6,627,716</u>	<u>135,665,583</u>
Surplus (Deficit) from Operations	<u>71,918</u>	<u>767,667</u>	<u>984,711</u>	<u>2,931,897</u>	<u>1,599,242</u>	<u>(109,326)</u>	<u>(2,091,888)</u>	<u>(559,373)</u>	<u>(2,052,641)</u>	<u>1,542,207</u>
<b>SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE</b>										
Contributions	1,259	2,162	140	185	130	55	11	2,971	27	6,940
Rental income	200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000
Interest and other revenue	6,938	4,475	3,992	3,992	3,339	1,534	614	1,034	1,034	26,952
Total Support and Other Revenue	<u>208,197</u>	<u>6,637</u>	<u>4,132</u>	<u>4,177</u>	<u>3,469</u>	<u>1,589</u>	<u>625</u>	<u>4,005</u>	<u>1,061</u>	<u>233,892</u>
Change in Net Assets	280,115	774,304	988,843	2,936,074	1,602,711	(107,737)	(2,091,263)	(555,368)	(2,051,580)	1,776,099
<b>NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)</b>										
Beginning of year	2,972,205	6,842,773	3,317,649	3,898,789	952,384	(1,894,498)	(3,077,641)	(1,623,687)	(2,931,078)	8,456,896
End of year	<u>\$ 3,252,320</u>	<u>\$ 7,617,077</u>	<u>\$ 4,306,492</u>	<u>\$ 6,834,863</u>	<u>\$ 2,555,095</u>	<u>\$ (2,002,235)</u>	<u>\$ (5,168,904)</u>	<u>\$ (2,179,055)</u>	<u>\$ (4,982,658)</u>	<u>\$ 10,232,995</u>

# Ascend Charter Schools

## Schedule of Functional Expenses Brooklyn Ascend Charter School Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Program Services		Management and General	Total
		Regular Education	Special Education		
Personnel Services Costs					
Administrative staff personnel	34	\$ 1,387,011	\$ 201,633	\$ 1,314,445	\$ 2,903,089
Instructional personnel	124	10,143,530	1,284,903	-	11,428,433
Non-instructional personnel	3	-	-	288,840	288,840
Total Personnel Services Costs	161	11,530,541	1,486,536	1,603,285	14,620,362
Employee benefits and payroll taxes		2,371,263	338,666	365,264	3,075,193
Professional fees		900,643	118,306	194,686	1,213,635
Management fees		1,413,007	227,145	2,360,219	4,000,371
Consultants - education		157,453	36,530	-	193,983
Legal fees		-	-	286	286
Curriculum and classroom supplies		1,075,357	96,879	-	1,172,236
Office supplies		-	-	86,745	86,745
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		65,090	9,462	10,205	84,757
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		122,792	17,851	19,252	159,895
Communications		919,903	81,184	87,560	1,088,647
Occupancy		4,415,929	641,953	692,371	5,750,253
Insurance		131,341	19,201	19,493	170,035
Repairs and maintenance		416,192	60,503	65,254	541,949
Security		1,605	233	252	2,090
Marketing and recruiting		41,052	6,101	5,074	52,227
Staff development		89,074	11,384	3,030	103,488
Travel and meals		136,770	20,044	19,800	176,614
Postage, printing and copying		6,502	945	1,019	8,466
Dues and subscriptions		142,399	20,701	22,327	185,427
Depreciation and amortization		723,874	105,231	113,498	942,603
Interest		32,682	4,751	5,124	42,557
Miscellaneous		-	-	21,978	21,978
Total Expenses		\$ 24,693,469	\$ 3,303,606	\$ 5,696,722	\$ 33,693,797

# Ascend Charter Schools

Schedule of Functional Expenses  
Brownsville Ascend Charter School  
Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Program Services		Management and General	Total
		Regular Education	Special Education		
<b>Personnel Services Costs</b>					
Administrative staff personnel	20	\$ 665,058	\$ 153,377	\$ 874,964	\$ 1,693,399
Instructional personnel	86	6,393,579	1,238,675	-	7,632,254
Non-instructional personnel	7	-	-	256,060	256,060
<b>Total Personnel Services Costs</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>7,058,637</b>	<b>1,392,052</b>	<b>1,131,024</b>	<b>9,581,713</b>
<b>Employee benefits and payroll taxes</b>					
Professional fees		1,581,980	356,486	289,640	2,228,106
Management fees		486,999	90,916	161,091	739,006
Consultants - education		846,212	169,588	1,461,760	2,477,560
Legal fees		88,899	102,486	-	191,385
Curriculum and classroom supplies		-	-	8,327	8,327
Office supplies		528,952	66,209	-	595,161
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		-	-	73,973	73,973
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		34,030	7,848	6,377	48,255
Communications		80,068	18,465	15,003	113,536
Occupancy		462,569	54,859	44,572	562,000
Insurance		1,419,227	327,305	265,931	2,012,463
Repairs and maintenance		65,482	14,974	11,478	91,934
Marketing and recruiting		305,106	70,364	57,170	432,640
Staff development		17,273	3,847	2,387	23,507
Travel and meals		53,134	7,790	1,461	62,385
Postage, printing and copying		92,123	21,246	17,262	130,631
Dues and subscriptions		10,841	2,500	2,031	15,372
Depreciation and amortization		100,870	23,263	18,901	143,034
Interest		530,737	122,399	99,448	752,584
Miscellaneous		65,355	15,072	12,246	92,673
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 13,828,494</b>	<b>\$ 2,867,669</b>	<b>\$ 3,774,324</b>	<b>\$ 20,470,487</b>

# Ascend Charter Schools

## Schedule of Functional Expenses Bushwick Ascend Charter School Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Program Services			Management and General	Total
		Regular Education	Special Education	Total		
Personnel Services Costs						
Administrative staff personnel	16	\$ 425,208	\$ 304,444	\$ 729,652	\$ 744,883	\$ 1,474,535
Instructional personnel	82	4,254,161	2,542,706	6,796,867	-	6,796,867
Non-instructional personnel	2	-	-	-	132,593	132,593
Total Personnel Services Costs	100	4,679,369	2,847,150	7,526,519	877,476	8,403,995
Employee benefits and payroll taxes						
Professional fees		956,238	667,369	1,623,607	205,679	1,829,286
Management fees		128,858	11,761	140,619	71,197	211,816
Consultants - education		753,681	139,813	893,494	1,285,760	2,179,254
Legal fees		92,048	33,308	125,356	-	125,356
Curriculum and classroom supplies		-	-	-	6,110	6,110
Office supplies		424,819	42,995	467,814	-	467,814
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		16,437	11,768	28,205	51,723	51,723
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		45,194	32,358	77,552	3,627	31,832
Communications		391,498	139,941	531,439	9,973	87,525
Occupancy		1,585,207	1,134,988	2,720,195	43,129	574,568
Insurance		51,297	34,760	86,057	349,797	3,069,992
Repairs and maintenance		498	357	855	10,501	96,558
Marketing and recruiting		25,786	16,538	42,324	110	965
Staff development		59,990	12,592	72,582	4,890	47,214
Travel and meals		178,006	42,820	220,826	3,322	75,904
Postage, printing and copying		8,179	5,856	14,035	4,076	224,902
Dues and subscriptions		58,287	41,733	100,020	1,805	15,840
Depreciation and amortization		160,956	115,243	276,199	12,862	112,882
Miscellaneous		-	-	-	35,517	311,716
					70,747	70,747
Total Expenses		\$ 9,616,348	\$ 5,331,350	\$ 14,947,698	\$ 3,048,301	\$ 17,995,999



## Ascend Charter Schools

### Schedule of Functional Expenses Canarsie Ascend Charter School Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Regular Education	Program Services Special Education	Total	Management and General	Total
<b>Personnel Services Costs</b>						
Administrative staff personnel	16	\$ 559,769	\$ 120,518	\$ 680,287	\$ 855,773	\$ 1,536,060
Instructional personnel	72	5,663,028	1,079,033	6,742,061	-	6,742,061
Non-instructional personnel	5	-	-	-	187,391	187,391
<b>Total Personnel Services Costs</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>6,222,797</b>	<b>1,199,551</b>	<b>7,422,348</b>	<b>1,043,164</b>	<b>8,465,512</b>
<b>Employee benefits and payroll taxes</b>						
Professional fees		1,395,940	297,127	1,693,067	258,390	1,951,457
Management fees		472,150	65,361	537,511	179,553	717,064
Consultants - education		1,036,073	108,006	1,144,079	1,646,358	2,790,437
Legal fees		61,705	13,851	75,556	-	75,556
Curriculum and classroom supplies		-	-	-	18,602	18,602
Office supplies		584,342	37,278	621,620	-	621,620
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		-	-	-	110,411	110,411
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		39,831	8,576	48,407	7,458	55,865
Communications		54,867	11,813	66,680	10,273	76,953
Occupancy		542,097	63,128	605,225	54,898	660,123
Insurance		2,681,574	577,343	3,258,917	502,074	3,760,991
Repairs and maintenance		86,718	18,098	104,816	15,271	120,087
Marketing and recruiting		61,772	13,299	75,071	11,566	86,637
Staff development		18,864	3,489	22,353	2,567	24,920
Travel and meals		57,014	6,865	63,879	3,366	67,245
Postage, printing and copying		295,104	41,260	336,364	17,696	354,060
Dues and subscriptions		40,883	8,802	49,685	7,654	57,339
Depreciation and amortization		86,441	18,611	105,052	16,184	121,236
		<b>354,342</b>	<b>76,290</b>	<b>430,632</b>	<b>66,344</b>	<b>496,976</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 14,092,514</b>	<b>\$ 2,568,748</b>	<b>\$ 16,661,262</b>	<b>\$ 3,971,829</b>	<b>\$ 20,633,091</b>

# **Ascend Charter Schools**

## Schedule of Functional Expenses Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter School Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Regular Education	Program Services Special Education	Total	Management and General	Total
<b>Personnel Services Costs</b>						
Administrative staff personnel	16	\$ 609,202	\$ 128,665	\$ 737,867	\$ 665,404	\$ 1,403,271
Instructional personnel	69	5,007,631	930,843	5,938,474	-	5,938,474
Non-instructional personnel	2	-	-	-	41,418	41,418
<b>Total Personnel Services Costs</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>5,616,833</b>	<b>1,059,508</b>	<b>6,676,341</b>	<b>706,822</b>	<b>7,383,163</b>
<b>Employee benefits and payroll taxes</b>						
Professional fees		1,172,606	244,749	1,417,355	163,278	1,580,633
Management fees		91,661	5,309	96,970	218,814	315,784
Consultants - education		804,773	126,737	931,510	1,340,466	2,271,976
Curriculum and classroom supplies		75,665	53,305	128,970	-	128,970
Office supplies		718,229	79,377	797,606	-	797,606
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		-	-	-	31,693	31,693
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		53,829	11,369	65,198	7,584	72,782
Communications		69,558	14,691	84,249	9,801	94,050
Occupancy		454,011	57,555	511,566	38,396	549,962
Insurance		2,759,945	582,907	3,342,852	388,871	3,731,723
Repairs and maintenance		66,500	13,857	80,357	8,876	89,233
Marketing and recruiting		3,781	799	4,580	533	5,113
Staff development		21,436	4,337	25,773	2,522	28,295
Travel and meals		61,587	8,763	70,350	2,508	72,858
Postage, printing and copying		91,622	19,329	110,951	12,852	123,803
Dues and subscriptions		6,571	1,388	7,959	926	8,885
Depreciation and amortization		72,777	15,371	88,148	10,254	98,402
Miscellaneous		211,952	44,765	256,717	29,864	286,581
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 12,353,336</b>	<b>\$ 2,344,116</b>	<b>\$ 14,697,452</b>	<b>\$ 2,980,426</b>	<b>\$ 17,677,878</b>

# Ascend Charter Schools

## Schedule of Functional Expenses Cypress Hills Ascend Charter School Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Program Services		Management and General	Total
		Regular Education	Special Education		
Personnel Services Costs					
Administrative staff personnel	8	\$ 275,071	\$ 47,951	\$ 309,980	\$ 633,002
Instructional personnel	38	2,599,980	393,527	-	2,993,507
Non-instructional personnel	1	-	-	24,679	24,679
Total Personnel Services Costs	47	2,875,051	441,478	334,659	3,651,188
Employee benefits and payroll taxes					
Professional fees		590,494	101,529	76,963	768,986
Management fees		85,667	11,074	60,327	157,068
Consultants - education		344,296	63,803	587,265	995,364
Curriculum and classroom supplies		24,359	704	-	25,063
Office supplies		373,943	46,004	-	419,947
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		-	-	90,027	90,027
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		32,644	5,691	4,314	42,649
Communications		17,478	3,047	2,310	22,835
Occupancy		204,653	22,454	17,021	244,128
Insurance		1,464,662	255,326	193,547	1,913,535
Repairs and maintenance		29,052	5,080	3,647	37,779
Marketing and recruiting		119	21	16	156
Staff development		13,690	2,503	410	16,603
Travel and meals		12,154	1,567	400	14,121
Postage, printing and copying		53,553	9,336	7,077	69,966
Dues and subscriptions		1,299	226	172	1,697
Depreciation and amortization		75,646	13,187	9,996	98,829
		127,106	22,158	16,796	166,060
Total Expenses		\$ 6,325,866	\$ 1,005,188	\$ 1,404,947	\$ 8,736,001
					\$ 7,331,054

# Ascend Charter Schools

## Schedule of Functional Expenses East Brooklyn Ascend Charter School Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Program Services			Management and General	Total
		Regular Education	Special Education	Total		
Personnel Services Costs						
Administrative staff personnel	3	\$ 169,163	\$ 56,193	\$ 225,356	\$ 175,189	\$ 400,545
Instructional personnel	6	592,232	156,768	749,000	-	749,000
Non-instructional personnel	1	-	-	-	18,978	18,978
Total Personnel Services Costs	10	761,395	212,961	974,356	194,167	1,168,523
Employee benefits and payroll taxes						
Professional fees		139,124	43,725	182,849	39,867	222,716
Management fees		19,359	2,936	22,295	10,136	32,431
Consultants - education		73,713	11,194	84,907	122,183	207,090
Curriculum and classroom supplies		7,560	-	7,560	-	7,560
Office supplies		101,873	10,191	112,064	-	112,064
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		13,601	4,518	18,119	7,726	25,845
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		8,471	2,814	11,285	4,119	15,404
Communications		70,177	17,524	87,701	2,565	90,266
Occupancy		1,178,638	391,522	1,570,160	15,977	1,586,137
Insurance		5,123	1,643	6,766	356,971	363,737
Repairs and maintenance		690	229	919	1,452	2,371
Marketing and recruiting		3,738	1,025	4,763	209	4,972
Staff development		4,182	522	4,704	768	5,472
Travel and meals		13,927	4,626	18,553	446	19,000
Postage, printing and copying		531	176	707	4,218	4,925
Dues and subscriptions		6,359	2,112	8,471	161	8,632
Depreciation and amortization		93,908	31,195	125,103	1,926	127,029
Miscellaneous		-	-	-	28,442	28,442
Total Expenses		\$ 2,502,369	\$ 738,913	\$ 3,241,282	\$ 796,766	\$ 4,038,048

# Ascend Charter Schools

## Schedule of Functional Expenses East Flatbush Ascend Charter School Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Program Services			Management and General	Total
		Regular Education	Special Education	Total		
<b>Personnel Services Costs</b>						
Administrative staff personnel	7	\$ 233,052	\$ 53,327	\$ 286,379	\$ 219,130	\$ 505,509
Instructional personnel	20	1,223,265	239,642	1,462,907	-	1,462,907
Non-instructional personnel	1	-	-	-	21,741	21,741
<b>Total Personnel Services Costs</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1,456,317</b>	<b>292,969</b>	<b>1,749,286</b>	<b>240,871</b>	<b>1,990,157</b>
<b>Employee benefits and payroll taxes</b>						
Professional fees		289,806	65,267	355,073	53,661	408,734
Management fees		103,108	12,247	115,355	114,956	230,311
Consultants - education		219,929	30,433	250,362	360,276	610,638
Curriculum and classroom supplies		25,792	-	25,792	-	25,792
Office supplies		228,300	18,216	246,516	-	246,516
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		-	-	-	21,057	21,057
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		10,874	2,488	13,362	2,046	15,408
Communications		13,777	3,152	16,929	2,592	19,521
Occupancy		136,734	21,219	157,953	17,446	175,399
Insurance		1,257,135	287,657	1,544,792	236,503	1,781,295
Repairs and maintenance		15,539	3,477	19,016	2,759	21,775
Marketing and recruiting		1,764	404	2,168	332	2,500
Staff development		14,185	3,170	17,355	2,510	19,865
Travel and meals		11,766	1,913	13,679	770	14,449
Postage, printing and copying		16,510	3,687	20,197	2,917	23,114
Dues and subscriptions		57	13	70	11	81
Depreciation and amortization		13,875	3,175	17,050	2,610	19,660
Miscellaneous		89,001	20,365	109,366	16,744	126,110
		-	-	-	40,184	40,184
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 3,904,469</b>	<b>\$ 769,852</b>	<b>\$ 4,674,321</b>	<b>\$ 1,118,245</b>	<b>\$ 5,792,566</b>

# Ascend Charter Schools

## Schedule of Functional Expenses Flatbush Ascend Charter School Year Ended June 30, 2022

	No. of Positions	Program Services			Management and General	Total
		Regular Education	Special Education	Total		
Personnel Services Costs						
Administrative staff personnel	5	\$ 314,452	\$ 16,394	\$ 330,846	\$ 209,775	\$ 540,621
Instructional personnel	24	1,642,415	75,007	1,717,422	-	1,717,422
Non-instructional personnel	1	-	-	-	24,617	24,617
Total Personnel Services Costs	30	1,956,867	91,401	2,048,268	234,392	2,282,660
Employee benefits and payroll taxes						
Professional fees		379,198	19,577	398,775	50,203	448,978
Management fees		27,493	1,600	29,093	17,873	46,966
Consultants - education		179,652	30,553	210,205	302,489	512,694
Curriculum and classroom supplies		50,973	1,931	52,904	-	52,904
Office supplies		246,080	26,488	272,568	-	272,568
Non-capitalized furniture and equipment		-	-	-	8,861	8,861
Leased equipment, furniture and fixtures		12,321	642	12,963	1,647	14,610
Communications		19,503	1,017	20,520	2,608	23,128
Occupancy		185,147	7,616	192,763	19,530	212,293
Insurance		2,095,758	109,265	2,205,023	280,202	2,485,225
Marketing and recruiting		16,160	931	17,091	2,060	19,151
Staff development		5,716	382	6,098	669	6,767
Travel and meals		11,090	1,484	12,574	6,588	19,162
Postage, printing and copying		33,828	1,961	35,789	4,299	40,088
Dues and subscriptions		2,128	111	2,239	284	2,523
Depreciation and amortization		19,208	1,001	20,209	2,568	22,777
		131,857	6,875	138,732	17,629	156,361
Total Expenses		\$ 5,372,979	\$ 302,835	\$ 5,675,814	\$ 951,902	\$ 6,627,716

# **Ascend Charter Schools**

Uniform Guidance  
Schedules and Reports

June 30, 2022

## Ascend Charter Schools

### Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Year Ended June 30, 2022

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Provided to Subrecipients	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. Department of Education				
Direct Program:				
Ascend Learning: Expansion and Replication of High-Quality Charter Schools in Brooklyn, NY	84.282M	Not available	\$ -	\$ 1,053,317
Pass-Through New York State Education Department:				
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-22-4395	-	608,683
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-22-4585	-	441,601
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-22-4780	-	458,786
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-22-4965	-	421,333
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-22-5170	-	315,495
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-22-5430	-	140,106
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-22-5565	-	45,210
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-22-5555	-	61,059
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-22-5570	-	74,534
			-	2,566,807
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	0147-22-4395	-	88,144
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	0147-22-4585	-	62,455
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	0147-22-4780	-	68,345
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	0147-22-4965	-	75,117
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	0147-22-5170	-	56,615
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	0147-22-5430	-	25,365
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	0147-22-5565	-	15,585
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	0147-22-5555	-	8,943
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	0147-22-5570	-	16,909
			-	417,478
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204-22-4395	-	42,340
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204-22-4585	-	31,051
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204-22-4780	-	32,259
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204-22-4965	-	27,309
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204-22-5170	-	19,796
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204-22-5430	-	10,000
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204-22-5565	-	10,000
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	85.424	0204-22-5555	-	10,000
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204-22-5570	-	10,000
			-	192,755

See independent auditors' report and notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards



## Ascend Charter Schools

### Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards *(continued)* Year Ended June 30, 2022

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Provided to Subrecipients	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. Department of Education <i>(continued)</i>				
Pass-Through New York State Education Department: <i>(continued)</i>				
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365	0293-22-4780	\$ -	\$ 61,598
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365	0293-22-4965	-	29,374
			-	<u>90,972</u>
Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP	84.425U	5880-21-4395	-	2,483,427
Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP	84.425U	5880-21-4585	-	1,644,491
Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP	84.425U	5880-21-4780	-	1,303,299
Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP	84.425U	5880-21-4965	-	1,292,888
Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP	84.425U	5880-21-5170	-	1,165,810
Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP	84.425U	5880-21-5430	-	611,436
Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP	84.425U	5880-21-5565	-	200,057
Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP	84.425U	5880-21-5555	-	369,478
Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP	84.425U	5880-21-5570	-	398,596
			-	<u>9,469,482</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education			-	<u>13,790,811</u>
U.S. Department of Agriculture				
Pass-through New York State Education Department:				
<i>Child Nutrition Cluster:</i>				
School Breakfast Program	10.553	Not available	-	68,376
National School Lunch Program	10.555	Not available	-	260,682
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			-	<u>329,058</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			-	<u>329,058</u>
Department of Homeland Security				
Pass-Through New York State Homeland				
Security and Emergency Services:				
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance				
(Presidentially Declared Disasters)	97.036	4480-DR-NY	-	103,717
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			\$ -	<u>\$ 14,223,586</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards

## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Year Ended June 30, 2022**

#### **1. Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the "Schedule") includes the federal award activity of Ascend Charter Schools (the "School"), under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2022. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance"). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the School, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets or cash flows of the School.

#### **2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

#### **3. Indirect Cost Rate**

The School has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters  
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government  
Auditing Standards***

**Independent Auditors' Report**

**Board of Trustees  
Ascend Charter Schools**

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Ascend Charter Schools (the "School") (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2022, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 25, 2022.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the School's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified a deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2022-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **The School's Response to Finding**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the School's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The School's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP*

Harrison, New York  
November 25, 2022

**Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control  
Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance**

**Independent Auditors' Report**

**Board of Trustees  
Ascend Charter Schools**

**Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program**

***Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We have audited Ascend Charter Schools (the "School") compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the School's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2022. The School's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the School complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2022.

***Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the School and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the School's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the School's federal programs.

### ***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the School's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the School's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the School's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the School's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

## **Report on Internal Control Over Compliance**

*A deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP*

Harrison, New York  
November 25, 2022

## Ascend Charter Schools

### Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs Year Ended June 30, 2022

#### **Section I - Summary of Auditors' Results**

##### **Financial Statements**

Type of report the auditor issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes X no

Significant deficiency(ies) identified?

X yes \_\_\_\_\_ none reported

Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes X no

##### **Federal Awards**

Internal control over major federal programs:

Material weakness(es) identified?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes X no

Significant deficiency(ies) identified?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes X none reported

Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major federal programs:

Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes X no

Identification of major federal programs:

##### **Federal Assistance Listing Number(s)**

##### **Name of Federal Program or Cluster**

84.425U

Education Stabilization Fund/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ARP

84.282M

Ascend Learning: Expansion and Replication of High-Quality Charter Schools in Brooklyn, NY

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:

\$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

X yes \_\_\_\_\_ no



## **Ascend Charter Schools**

### **Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs *(continued)*** **Year Ended June 30, 2022**

#### **Section II – Financial Statement Findings**

##### **2022-001- General Ledger Maintenance and Account Analysis**

###### ***Criteria***

An effective financial closing process provides the School with accurate and timely financial statements. All significant accounts should be reconciled timely and regularly to ensure that financial records are accurate and to facilitate the preparation of financial statement at year end.

###### ***Condition***

Account analysis schedules were not fully reconciled and supported by all the backup documentation. We also noted that improvements are needed in the financial statement closing process to address the accuracy and timeliness of the School's year-end financial reporting.

###### ***Cause***

The finance department has experienced significant turnover and appears to be understaffed. Continual training is required to enable a good understanding of effective internal controls.

###### ***Effect***

The School's system of internal control is not effective for managing its resources and resulted in difficulties with meeting external deadlines for submission of the audited financial statements.

###### ***Recommendation***

We recommend that the School assess the adequacy of resources in the finance department in relation to its periodic and year end reporting responsibilities. The School may consider an increased level of financial analysis of significant accounts on a regular basis, as well as providing additional support to the finance department in the area of financial reporting.

###### ***Views of Responsible Officials***

See management corrective action plan in Appendix A.

#### **Section III – Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs**

During our audit, we noted no material instance of noncompliance and none of the costs tested which were reported in the federal financially assisted programs are questioned or recommended to be disallowed.

#### **Section IV – Prior Year Findings**

There were no findings in the prior year.

November 18, 2022

To Whom it may concern:

Ascend has undergone significant transition in its key finance positions: Chief Financial Officer and Controller. I, Carlos Zayas, have stepped into the Interim Chief Financial Officer role in June 2022 and will maintain this role until Ascend hires a permanent CFO. We are actively seeking the Controller position and will have an Interim role in place as we undergo our search. Much of what is outlined in the FY22 Findings have slowly been addressed since I have started. We have made progress in the following areas.

1. Created a monthly close checklist that the entire finance team will own
2. Clarified roles and responsibilities for existing and new staff
3. Expanded the financial, planning, and analysis team by 1 FTE to provide additional oversight in school activity and identify problem areas well in advance
4. Onboarded temporary staff accounting person to the accounting team to support month-end activity and schedules
5. Reviewed open purchase orders on a regular basis to understand school obligations
6. Formalized FY23 goals for finance team around the accurate and timely reporting of our financial information to our internal and external stakeholders



We will also work on the following:

1. Reconciliation of non-cash balance sheet accounts on a quarterly basis. This will ensure that there is less work to do at year-end for our audit schedules starting at the end of Q2
2. Review all grant activity on a quarterly basis, starting at the end of Q2
3. Provide the finance team with additional support around grants activity, grants compliance, and billing
4. Centralize all supporting documentation needed for a successful audit
5. Create standard operating procedures to better prepare for turnover by the end of the fiscal year

Everything outlined above will allow the Ascend Learning finance team to report up-to-date financial information to internal and external stakeholders. Additionally, it will better prepare us for the FY23 audit.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roberto".

Roberto Carlos Zayas  
Interim Chief Financial Officer

# **Ascend Charter Schools**

## **Independent Auditors' Report on Communication of Internal Control Matters**

June 30, 2022

## **Independent Auditors' Communication on Internal Control Matters**

### **The Board of Trustees Ascend Charter Schools**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Ascend Charter Schools (the "School") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the School's internal control over financial reporting ("internal control") as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified a deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the School's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in the School's internal control presented in Addendum A to be a significant deficiency.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, audit committee, board of Trustees, The State Education Department of the State University of New York, and others within the School, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the courtesy and assistance extended to us by School personnel during the course of our audit.

*PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP*  
Harrison, New York  
November 25, 2022

## **Addendum A**

### **Deficiencies in Internal Control that We Consider to be Significant Deficiencies**

#### **1. Financial Statement Closing Process and Increase in Financial Resources**

During our audit, we noted that account analysis schedules were not fully reconciled and supported by all the backup documentation. We also noted that improvements are needed in the financial statement closing process to address the accuracy and timeliness of the School's year-end financial reporting.

We recommend that the School assess the adequacy of resources in the finance department in relation to its periodic and year end reporting responsibilities. The School may consider an increased level of financial analysis of significant accounts on a regular basis, as well as providing additional support to the finance department in the area of financial reporting.

<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:** Stephanie Mauterstock

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Public Charter Schools

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

**Chair**

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation? **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation? **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation? **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities? **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

**None**

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Nature of financial interest / transaction</b>	<b>Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)</b>	<b>Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you</b>
	<b>None</b>		

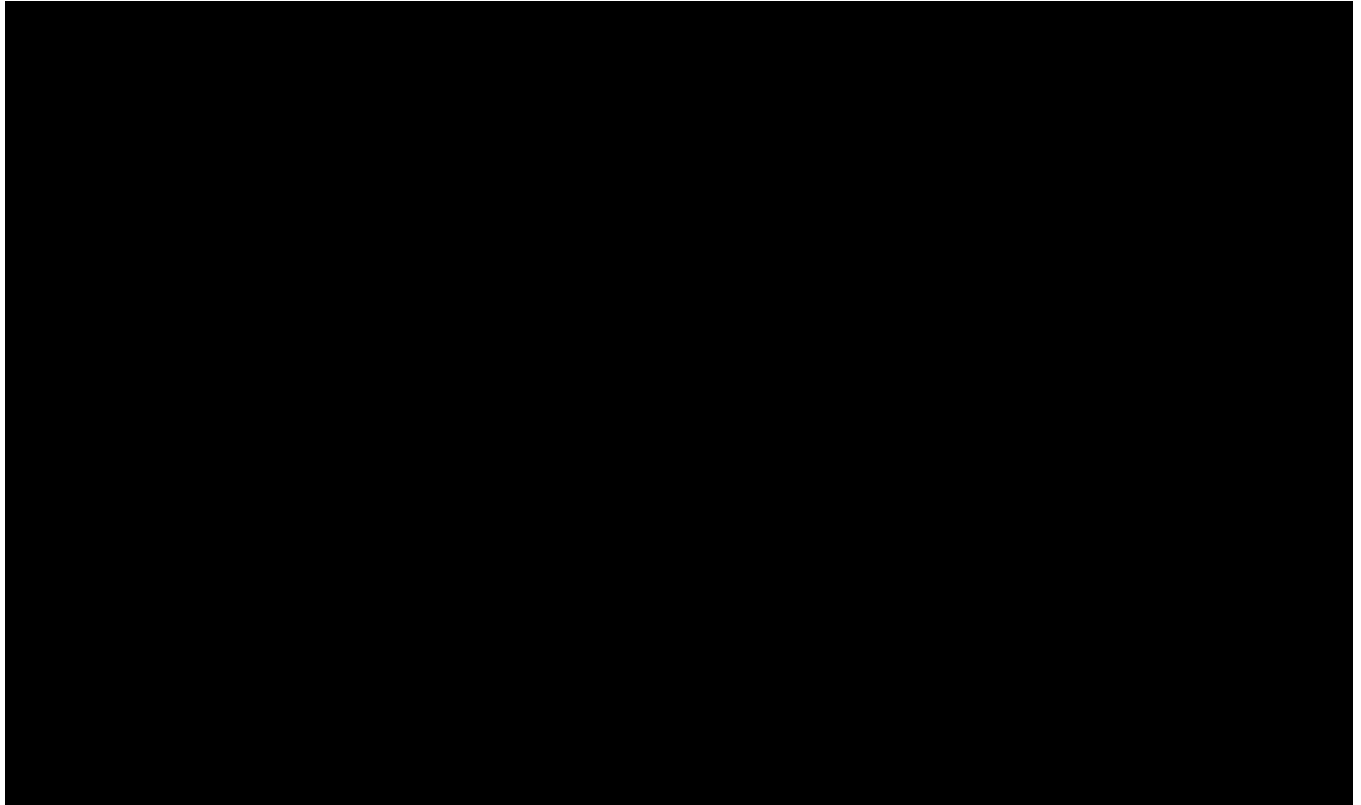


7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

**None**

<b>Organization conducting business with the school(s)</b>	<b>Nature of businesses conducted</b>	<b>Approximate value of the business conducted</b>	<b>Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest</b>	<b>Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest</b>
<b>None</b>				

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*



Stephanie R. Guterstock

**Signature Date 7/25/22**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*

<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Tracy Dunbar

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Charter Schools

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1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Member, Hiring Committee

Member, Academic Committee

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

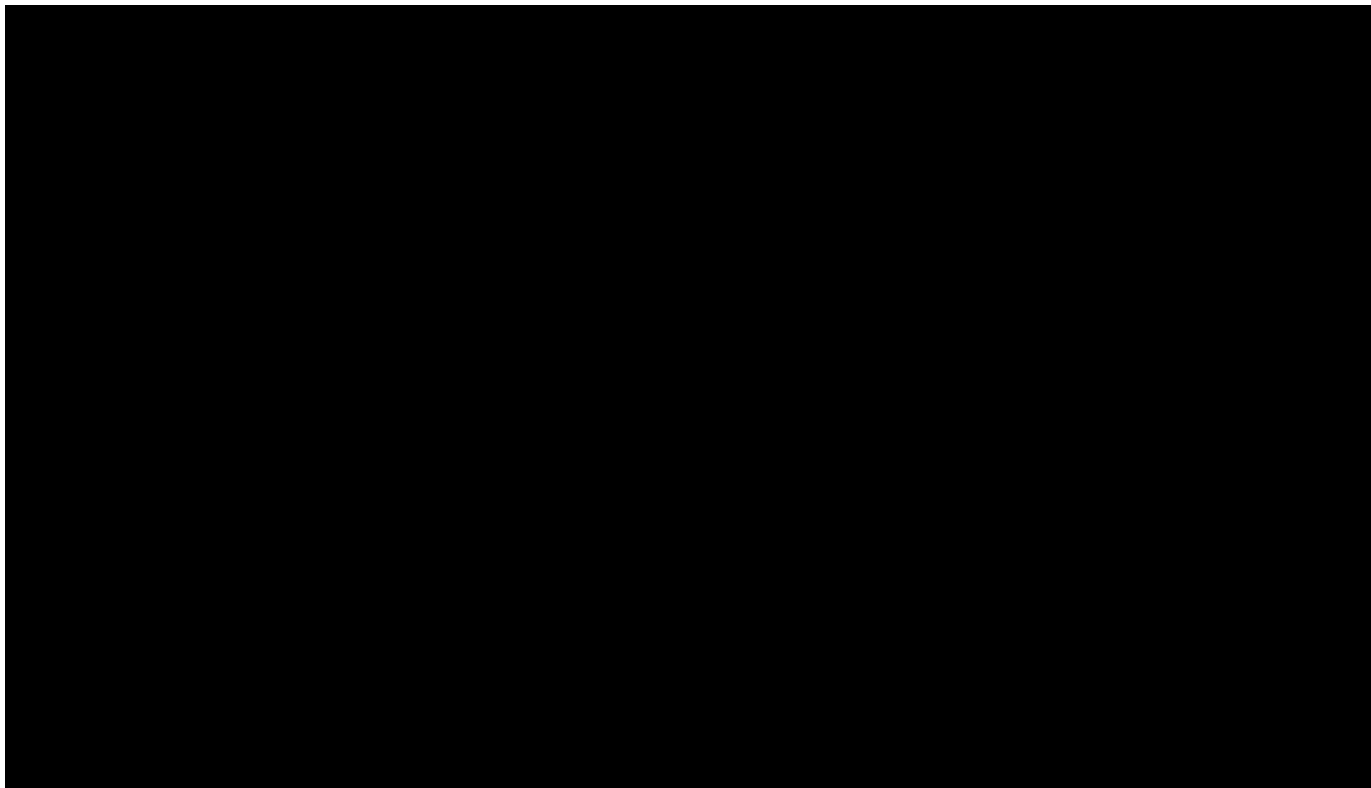
Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

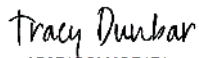
7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*



DocuSigned by:  
  
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7/28/2022

**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*



<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Stanley J. Taylor, Jr.

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Charter Schools

---

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Co-Chair

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.



4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

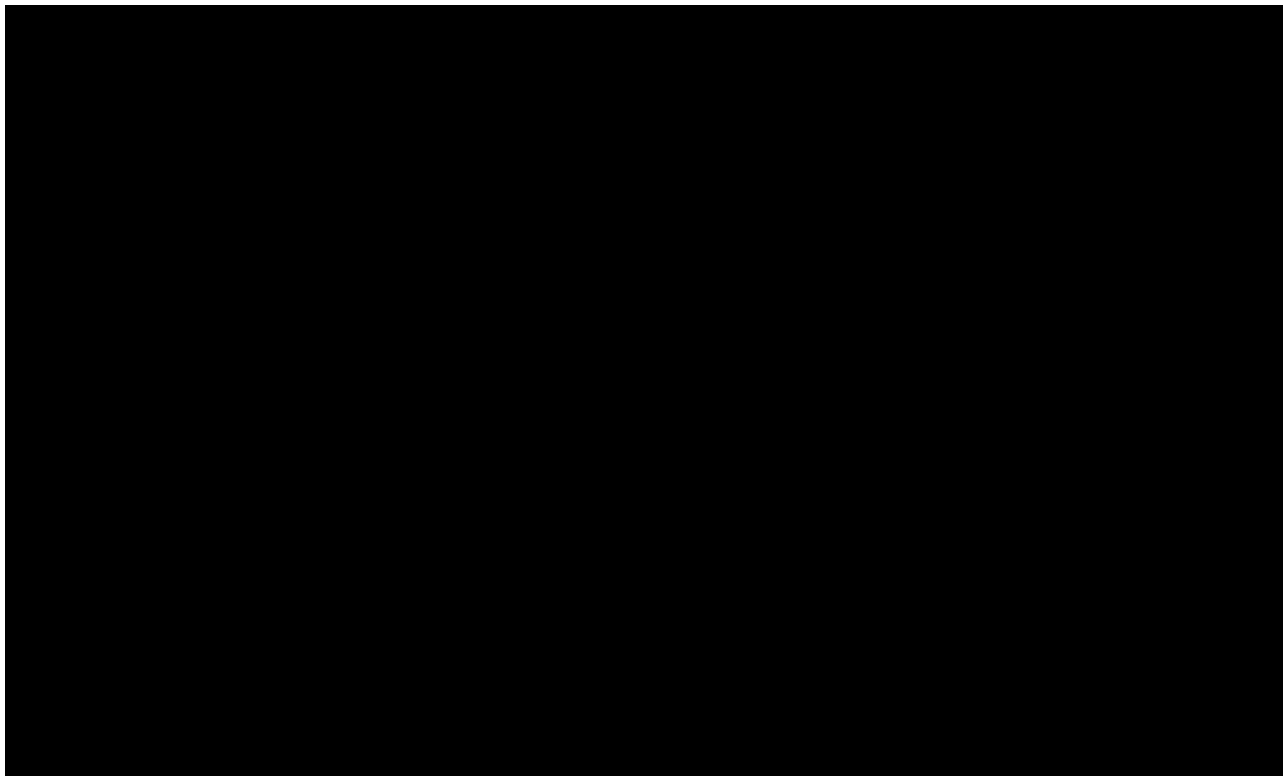
Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*



Stanley J. Taylor, Jr.

Stanley  
Taylor

Digitally signed by Stanley  
Taylor  
DN: cn=Stanley Taylor, o, ou,  
email=staylor@yearup.org,  
c=US  
Date: 2022.07.15 13:15:55  
-04'00'

07/15/2022

**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current  
or Former Trustee**

**Trustee Name:**

Glenn Hopps

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Charter Schools

---

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Co-Treasurer

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you



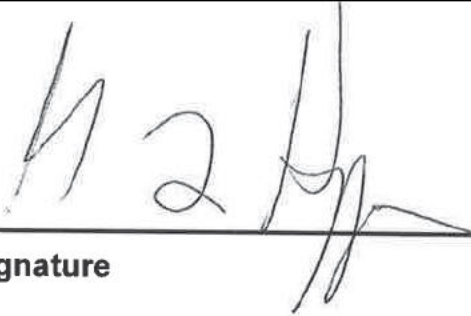
7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest



*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H2H', written over a horizontal line.

7/25/2022

**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*

<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Nadine Syvlester

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Public Charter School

---

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Chair (2022-23)

Co-Chair (2022)

Secretary (2021-2022)

Board Trustee (2018 - Present)

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

I am the parent of an Ascend Public Charter School student. The child indirectly benefits from my participation on the board.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☒ **Yes**   ☐ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

I am the parent of an Ascend Public Charter School student. The child indirectly benefits from my participation on the board

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ **Yes**   ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

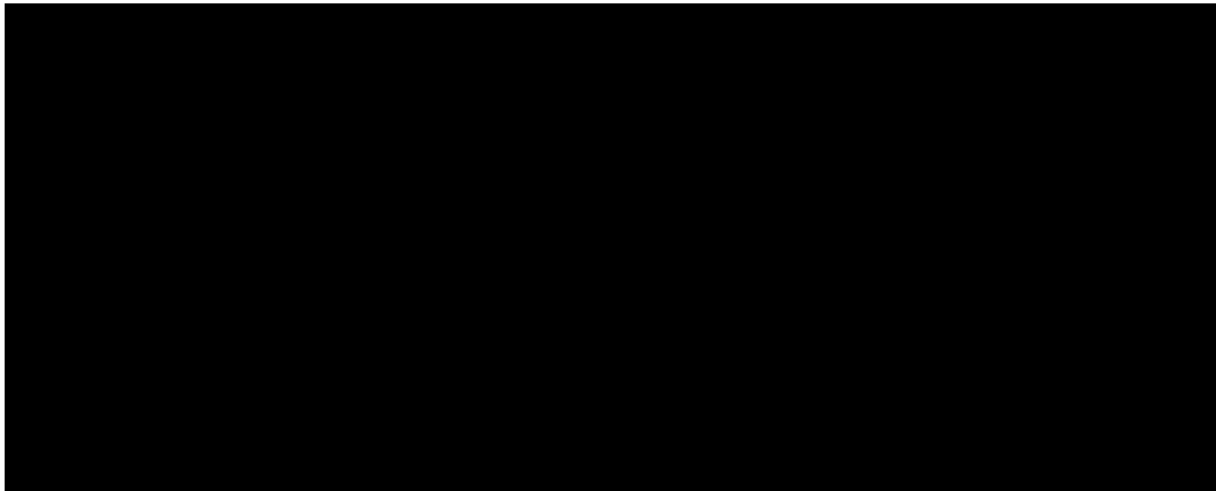
Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*

**Business Telephone:**

---

**Business Address:**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nadine Syllester', written over a horizontal line.

7/20/2022

**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*



<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Nadine Syvlester

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Public Charter School

---

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Chair (2022-23)

Co-Chair (2022)

Secretary (2021-2022)

Board Trustee (2018 - Present)

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

I am the parent of an Ascend Public Charter School student. The child indirectly benefits from my participation on the board.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☒ **Yes**   ☐ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

I am the parent of an Ascend Public Charter School student. The child indirectly benefits from my participation on the board

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ **Yes**   ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.



6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

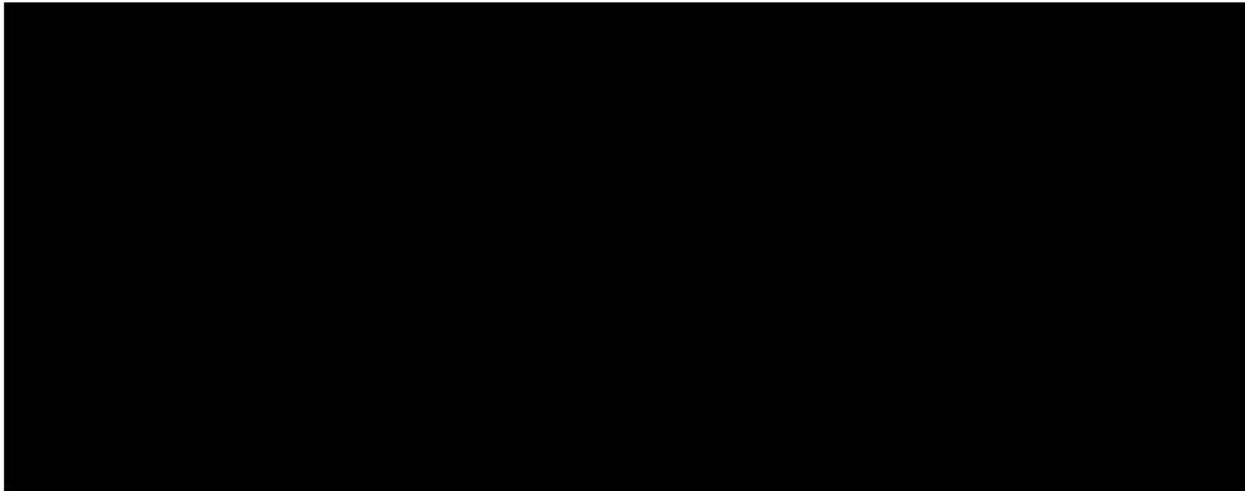
Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

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**Business Telephone:**

---

**Business Address:**



	7/20/2022
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*

<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Jackie Wilson

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Charter Schools

---

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Board member

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

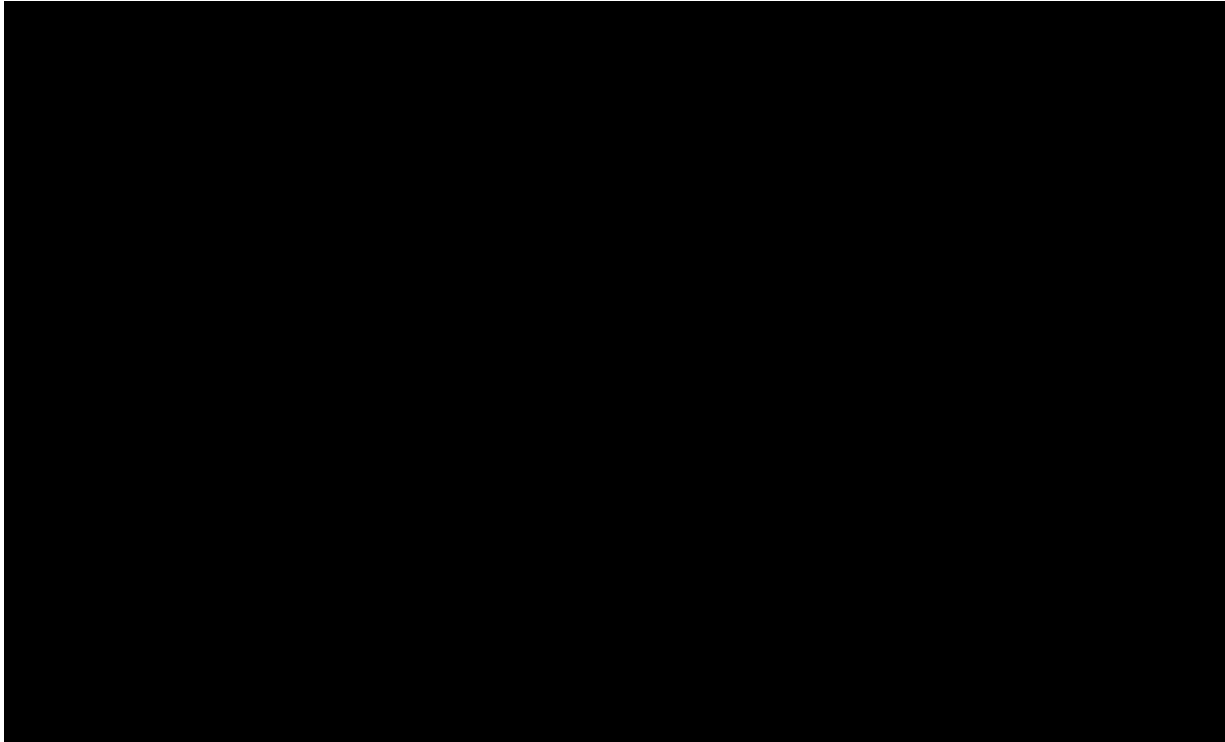
Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*



Jackie Wilson

Digitally signed by Jackie Wilson  
Date: 2022.07.15 16:35:52  
-04'00'

07/15/22

---

**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*



<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Amanda Craft

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Charter Schools

---

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Trustee

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

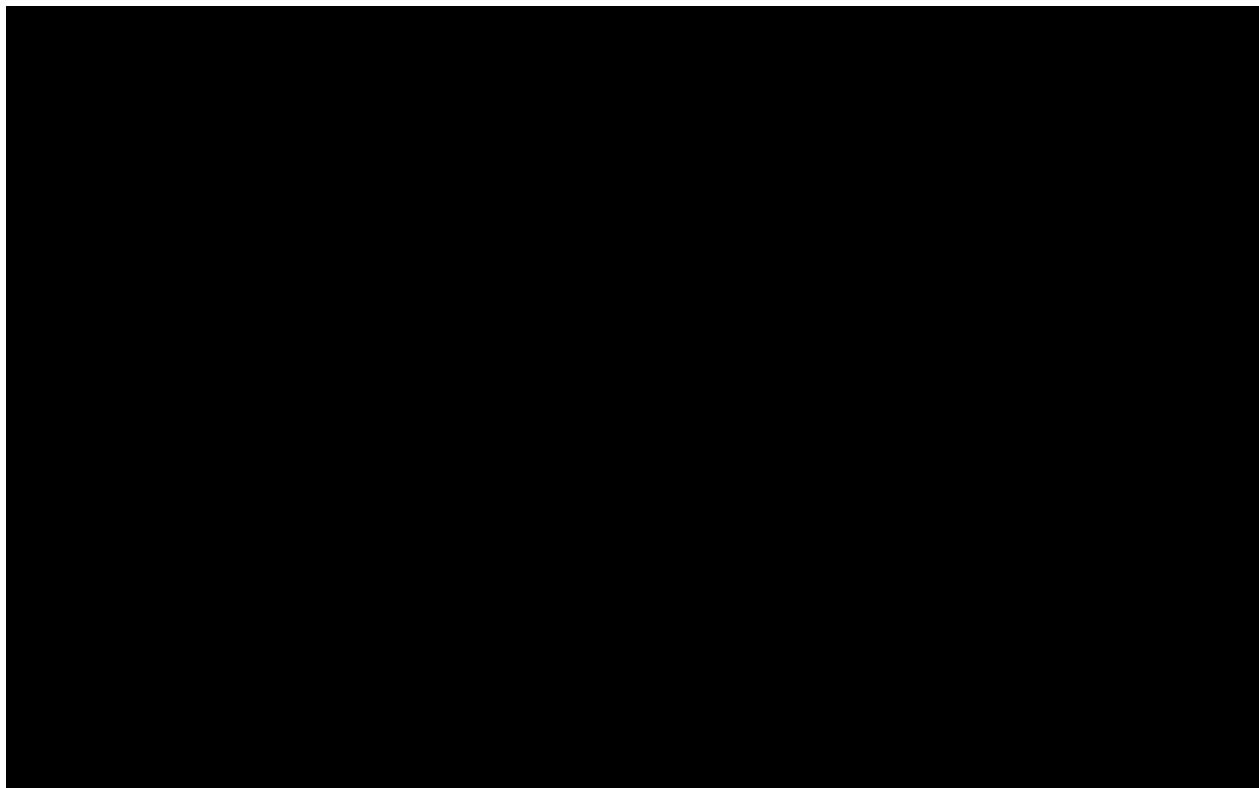
Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*



DocuSigned by:  
*Amanda Craft*  
F8EFFF50F193472...

7/28/2022

**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*

<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Gamal Walker

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Charter Schools

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1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

n/a

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.



4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you



7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

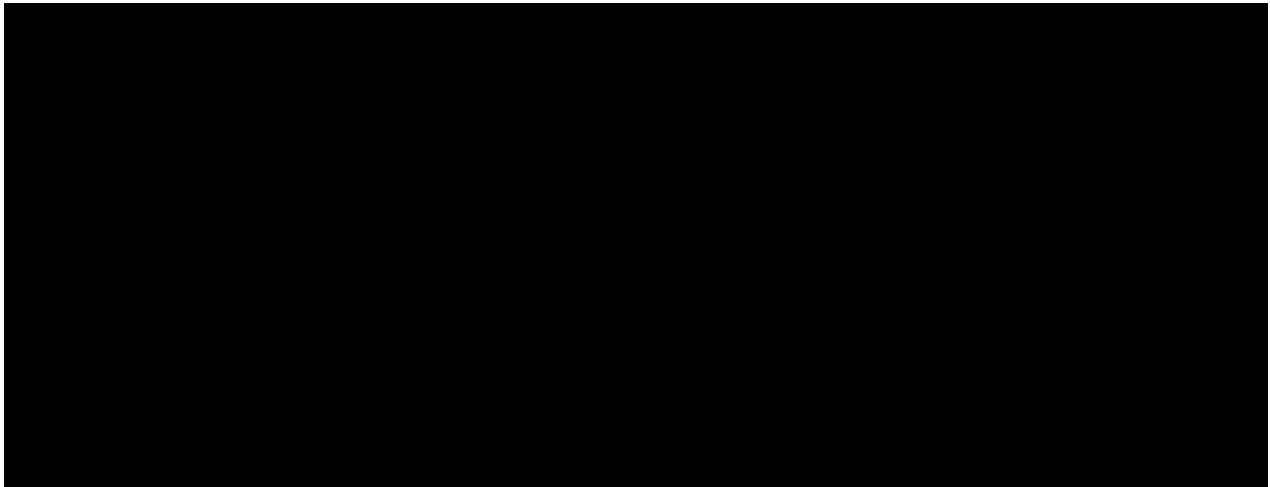
Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*

**Business Telephone:**

---

**Business Address:**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gamal Walker', is positioned above a horizontal line.

07/18/2022

---

**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*

<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Shelly Cleary

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Public Charter Schools

---

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Board Treasurer

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

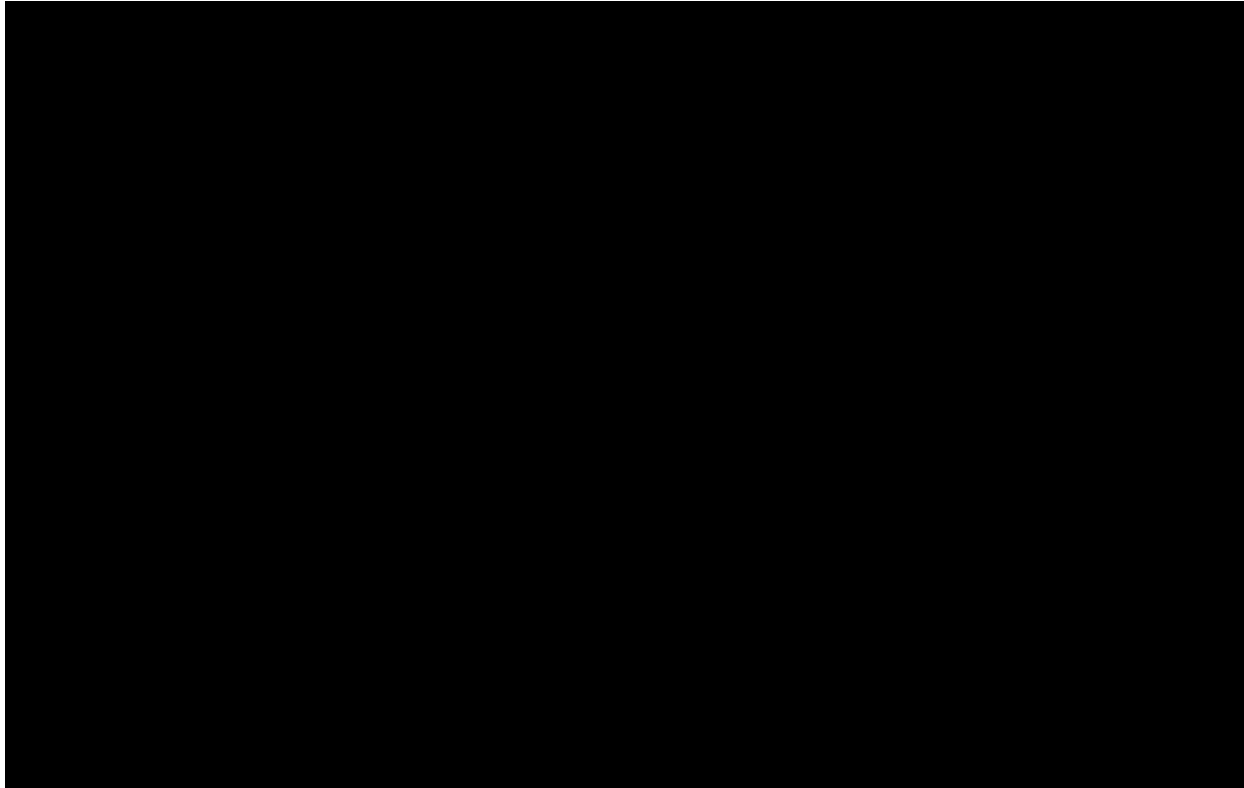
Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*



**Shelly Cleary**

Digitally signed by Shelly Cleary  
Date: 2022.07.18 15:04:14  
-04'00'

7.18.22

---

**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*



<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Janai Jeter

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Public Charter School

---

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Parent Representative

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐

**Yes**

**No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☒

**Yes**

**No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

Parent of student- No



- 
4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ **Yes**      **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ **Yes**      **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

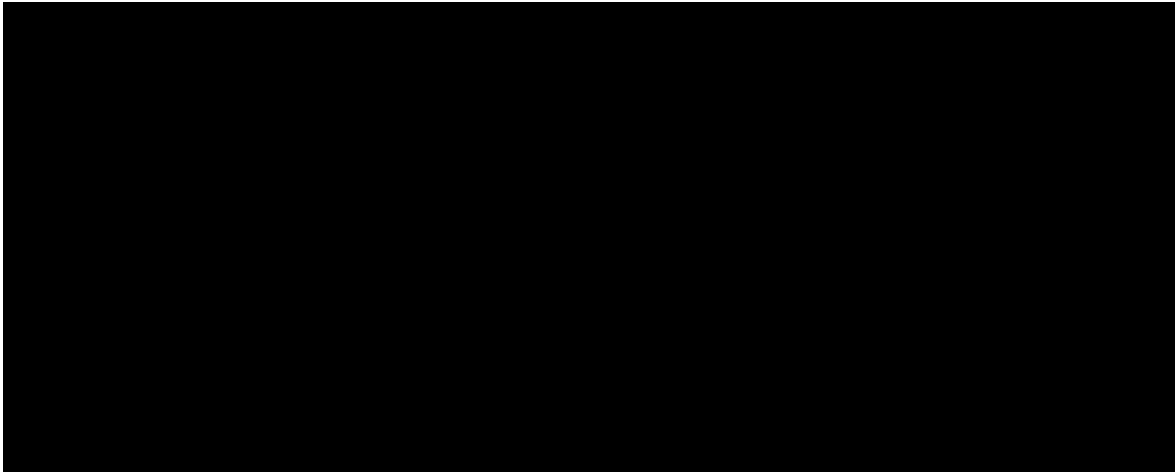
☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

-

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*

**Business Telephone:**



**Home Address:**

---

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith'.

July 18.2022

---

**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current  
or Former Trustee**

**Trustee Name:**

KWAKU ANDOH

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

ASCEND CHARTER SCHOOLS

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

TRUSTEE

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.



**None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you



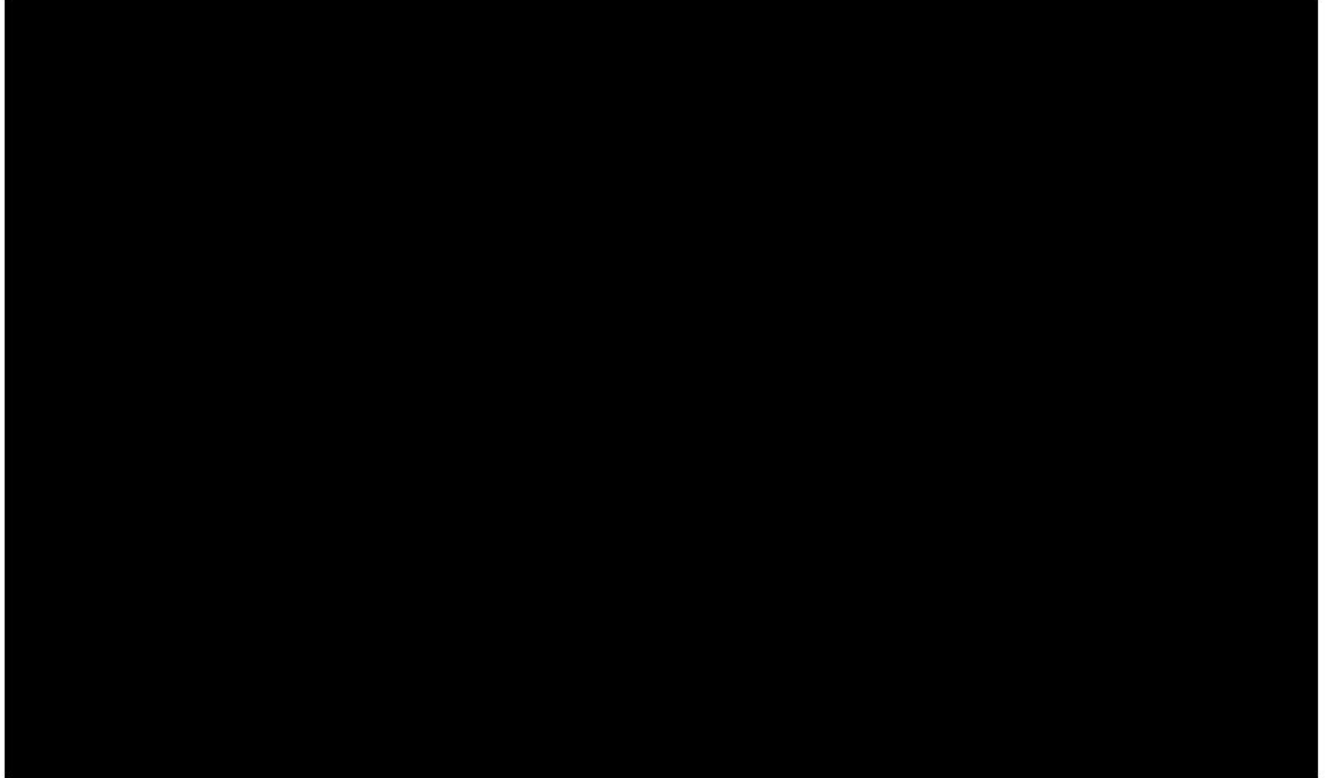
7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest



*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*



  
Signature

7/27/2002  
Date

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*



<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Oral Walcott

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend Public Charter Schools

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1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Trustee,

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

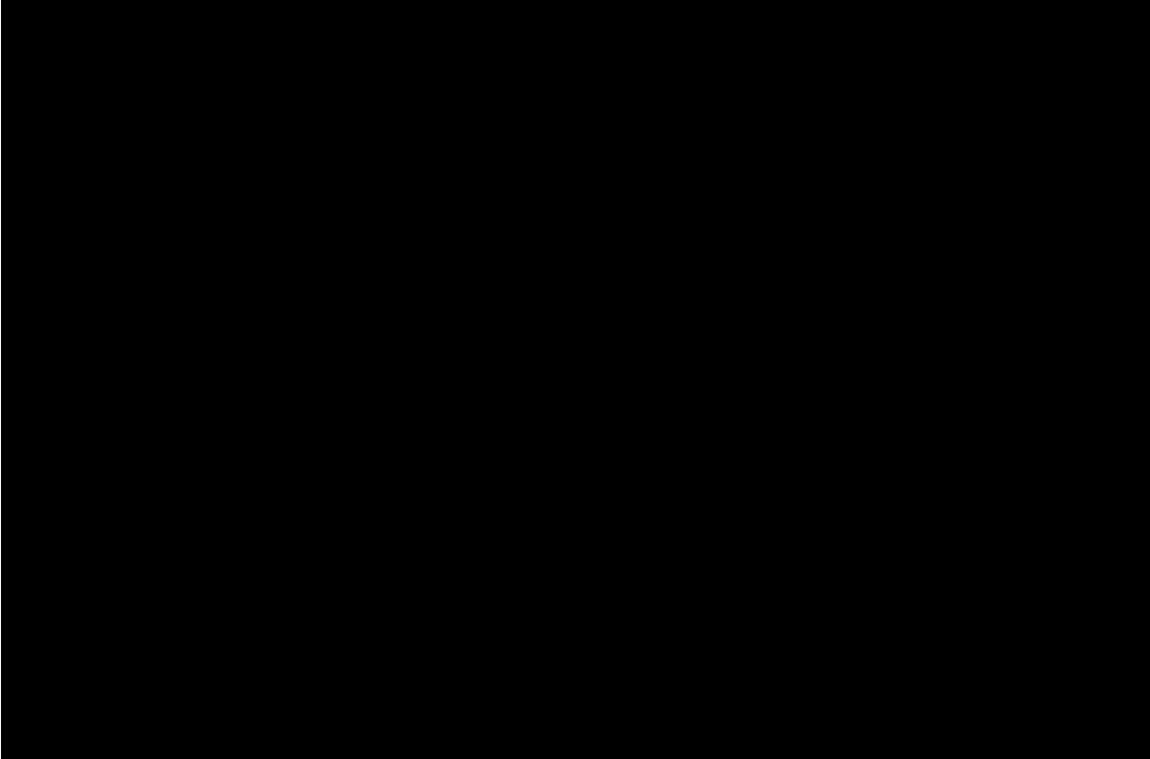
Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

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**Oral Walcott**

Digitally signed by Oral Walcott  
Date: 2022.07.26 08:08:45  
-04'00'

7/26/2022

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**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

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- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*

<b>Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee</b>
--

**Trustee Name:**

Emmanuel Fordjour

---

**Name of Charter School Education Corporation:**

Ascend

---

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Secretary

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.



4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

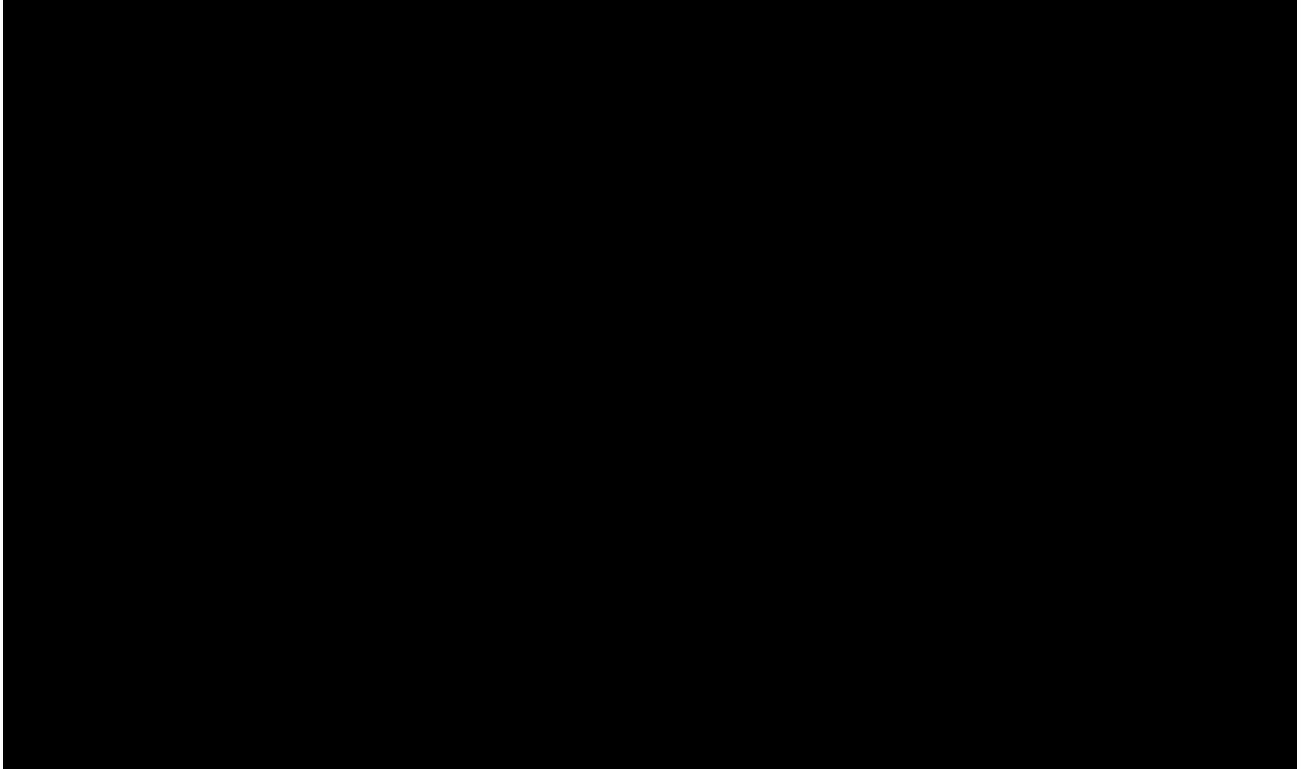
Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

*This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*



Emmanuel Fordjour

Digitally signed by Emmanuel  
Fordjour  
Date: 2022.07.15 15:53:31 -04'00'

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**Signature**

**Date**

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

*last revised 04/2022*

# Certificate of Occupancy

**CO Number: 320292152F**

This certifies that the premises described herein conforms substantially to the approved plans and specifications and to the requirements of all applicable laws, rules and regulations for the uses and occupancies specified. No change of use or occupancy shall be made unless a new Certificate of Occupancy is issued. *This document or a copy shall be available for inspection at the building at all reasonable times.*

<b>A.</b> <b>Borough:</b> Brooklyn <b>Address:</b> 396 GRANT AVE <b>Building Identification Number (BIN):</b> 3093770	<b>Block Number:</b> 04174 <b>Lot Number(s):</b> 67  <b>Building Type:</b> Altered	<b>Certificate Type:</b> Final <b>Effective Date:</b> 07/07/2016
<b>This building is subject to this Building Code: 1968 Code</b>		
<i>For zoning lot metes bounds, please see BISWeb.</i>		
<b>B.</b> <b>Construction classification:</b> 2-A (2014/2008 Code) <b>Building Occupancy Group classification:</b> E (2014/2008 Code) <b>Multiple Dwelling Law Classification:</b> None		
<b>No. of stories:</b> 4 <b>Height in feet:</b> 58 <b>No. of dwelling units:</b> 0		
<b>C.</b> <b>Fire Protection Equipment:</b> Standpipe system, Fire alarm system		
<b>D.</b> <b>Type and number of open spaces:</b> None associated with this filing.		
<b>E.</b> <b>This Certificate is issued with the following legal limitations:</b> None		
<b>Borough Comments:</b> None		




Borough Commissioner



Commissioner

# Certificate of Occupancy

CO Number: 320292152F

Permissible Use and Occupancy						
All Building Code occupancy group designations below are 2008 designations.						
Floor From To	Maximum persons permitted	Live load lbs per sq. ft.	Building Code occupancy group	Dwelling or Rooming Units	Zoning use group	Description of use
BAS	160		E		3	
001 001	400	60	E		3	
002 002	65	60	E		3	
003 003	200	60	E		3	
004 004	175	60	E		3	
1- THIS APPLICATION WAS REVIEWED UNDER THE 1968 BUILDING CODE						
END OF SECTION						



Borough Commissioner



Commissioner

END OF DOCUMENT

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# Ascend Public Charter Schools

## School Year Calendar 2022-23

J uly 1 f	New Ops Sta t Start (On oarding) f
J uly 4 - 5	No school — Independence Day (o served) f
J uly 6 - 8	New Operations Instit te
J uly 11 - 15	All Operations Instit te
J uly 18 - 29	Leader Instit te
A g st 1	New Sta Admin & Tech Day
A g st 3 - 5	New Teacher Instit te
A g st 8 - 11f	All Sta Instit te
A g st 12 - 18	On-site school PD and classroom prep
A g st 19	No school — Wellness Day
A g st 22	1st Day o School: K, 1, 5, 8, 9, 12 (12:30 pm dismissal or st dents)
A g st 25	1st Day o School: 2-4, 6-7, 10-11 (12:30 pm dismissal or st dents) f
A g st 22 - 31 f	12:30 pm dismissal or scholars
Septem ber 1 - 2 f	12:30 pm dismissal or scholars f
Septem ber 5	No school — La or Day
Octo er 10	No school — Indigeno s People's Day f
Octo er 28 f	No school — Wellness Day
Novem ber 8	No school — Election Day
Novem ber 11	No school — Veterans Day
Novem ber 21-25 f	No school — Thanksgiving Holiday f
Decem ber 19-30 f	No school — Mid-winter Break
Jan ary 2	No school — Mid-winter Break f
Jan ary 3	No st dents — PD day
Jan ary 16 f	No school — Martin L ther King, Jr. Day f
Fe r ary 20 - 24 f	No school — Winter Break
March 20 - 24 f	No school — Spring Break f
April 7 - 10 f	No school — Wellness Day f
April 21	No st dents — PD day
May 29 f	No school — Memorial Day f

June 12	Gr 12	Grade graduation
June 14		Last Day of School for K-4 students (12:30 pm) dismissal for students) m
June 15		No K-4 students — K-4 PD day
June 16		Last Day of School for K-4 teachers
June 19		No school — Juneteent
June 21		Last Day of School for 5-8 students (12:30 pm) dismissal for students) m
June 22		8th grade graduation
June 23 m		Last day for 5-12 teachers