



### **Application Overview**

New School Name: Wildflower Elementary

Location: Saratoga Springs

Opening Date: August 2021

Grades Configuration & Enrollment: K-6, 546 students

**Rationale for Request:** Ascent Academies of Utah (“AAU”) has the unique opportunity to become a planned neighborhood charter school that has been incorporated into the concept and design phases of Utah County’s 2<sup>nd</sup> largest master-planned community ([www.liveatwildflower.com](http://www.liveatwildflower.com)). Approval of Wildflower Elementary will also assist Alpine School District with current and projected overcrowding issues in the area.

**Mission Statement:** AAU’s network of schools utilizes the Schoolwide Enrichment Model to build a strong educational foundation and to provide an enriching, individualized and varied educational experience to all students.

**Program of Instruction:** The Schoolwide Enrichment Model (“SEM”) is a research-based educational philosophy from the University of Connecticut. AAU was established six years ago and provides its students with a rich and individualized academic program utilizing SEM. The AAU network is comprised of four campuses (Farmington, West Valley, West Jordan, Lehi) and serves more than 2,300 students. AAU’s network of schools combines SEM’s research-based strategies with curriculum and instructional methods aligned to the Utah Core Standards to provide students throughout the network with engaging opportunities to learn.

**Location & Market Context:** Wildflower Elementary will be located in northern Utah County within Saratoga Springs’ new Wildflower community.

- Saratoga Springs: +70% projected population growth within 10 years
- Wildflower community: consists of 1,202 acres and includes 3,238 planned residential units
- Over 300 new homes already completed within Wildflower
- 600 additional homes to be completed within next 12 months
- No district or charter schools within Wildflower community

### **AAU’s Capacity & Unique Features:**

- Board and administrative leadership team with prior replication experience
- Track record of financial stewardship, reporting compliance and accountability
- Existing network infrastructure to support a new K-6 school, including network curricular programs coordinator, network EL coordinator, network Special Education director, network technology coordinator, network psychologist and behavior specialists
- AAU Master Teacher Program
- Ongoing SEM professional development
- Professional Development Platform and Qualitative Analysis Process
- Cross-campus collaboration infrastructure for teachers and students
- Application includes a request to provide enrollment preference for students who reside within one mile of Wildflower Elementary