



State Charter School Board Amendment Request

Applicant Assurances

School Name: Ascent Academies of Utah

The Applicant certifies all information contained in this application is complete and accurate, realizing that any misrepresentation could result in disqualification from the Amendment Request process or revocation after award.

The Applicant understands that applications must be uploaded into the UCAP system no later than the third Friday of the month preceding the month of the requested SCSB meeting and that incomplete applications will not be considered.

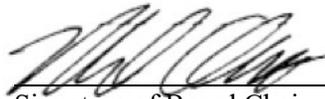
The Applicant acknowledges that all information presented in the application package, if approved, may become part of the charter to be used for accountability purposes throughout the term of the charter.

The Applicant acknowledges that the charter school governing board is subject to all Utah statutes regarding charter schools as well as all relevant federal, state and local laws, and requirements, and should comply with such.

The Applicant acknowledges that the most current academic and compliance data will be provided to the SCSB for its consideration of the application.

The applicant acknowledges that prior to inclusion on the agenda, the SCSB recommends charter school governing boards schedule an appointment with SCSB staff to discuss the request and provide clarification to any staff questions.

Mike Ostermiller
Name of Board Chair


Signature of Board Chair / 12/14/2020
Date

School Entity Information

Name of School: **Ascent Academies of Utah**

Name of School Administrator: **Wade Glathar**

Contact Information for School: **Ph. 385.275.0909 / Email: wglathar@ascentutah.org**

Name	Position	All Charter Affiliations
Mike Ostermiller	President	Ascent Academies
Stuart Adams	Vice President	Ascent Academies
Tyler Schvaneveldt	Financial Coordinator	Ascent Academies
James Horton	Board Member	Ascent Academies
Mike Greenhalgh	Board Member	Ascent Academies

Contractual Charter Agreement Goals

Contractual Agreement Goals	Met	Corrective Action Plan or Additional Notes (if required)
No board violations of statute, rule or charter agreement	Yes	
Charter Agreement: 100% of board members pass all available board training modules (GBOT)	Yes	
100% of required reports submitted to state agency complete, accurate and on time.	Yes	
Articles, Bylaws and Charter are all in agreement and remain unchanged.	Yes	
Student Membership Rate: $\geq 95\%$	No	FY20 student membership rates at our West Jordan, Lehi and Farmington campuses are at 95%, however, our recently opened West Valley campus student membership rate is approximately 89%. Assessing and improving our student membership rates in an atmosphere of soft-closures, quarantines, and COVID-19 restrictions is very difficult, and the data may or may not prove to be helpful. However, we have made a focused effort to improve student membership at each campus by providing additional individualized support, improving school culture,

Amendment Request – Ascent Academies of Utah

		and regularly reviewing data to determine appropriate interventions.
Within Year Enrollment Rate: $\geq 92\%$	Yes	
Year-to-Year Re-enrollment Rate: $\geq 92\%$	No	While our Farmington campus met this goal, AAU as an LEA did not. Lehi, West Jordan and West Valley campuses are reviewing strategies to improve exit survey data and to keep families engaged with the school. Despite the challenges associated with COVID-19, we are hoping to see improvement next year in our year-to-year re-enrollment rates as a result of our directors' efforts.
Continuous Re-enrollment Rate: $\geq 85\%$	No	It has proven difficult to calculate and to assess our performance against this indicator, as well as create an action plan to address it. Even if AAU exceeded its year-to-year retention goals, it would be at risk of falling below this contractual goal within 3-4 years. However, student retention is a priority, and we continue to gather information and strive to improve student retention.
Proficiency Points on UCAS Report	N/A	UCAS is now obsolete
Growth Points on UCAS Report	N/A	UCAS is now obsolete
Percentage of teachers properly licensed and endorsed for teaching assignment in CACTUS: 100%	Yes	
Percentage of employees and board members with completed criminal background checks on file at the school: 100%	Yes	
Number of material findings, financial condition findings, or repeated significant findings in annual financial audit: 0	Yes	
Unrestricted cash on hand: 30 days	Yes	
Current Ratio: ≥ 1.15	Yes	
Debt Ratio: ≤ 0.9	Yes	
Occupancy Costs: $\leq 22\%$	Yes	
School upholds applicable bond covenants	Yes	
Adherence to Budget within 5%	Yes	
Actual Enrollment: 90% of authorized cap	No	AAU's actual enrollment is approximately 80% of its authorized network capacity. Our yearly enrollment goals are primarily focused on facility capacity, program restraints and the availability of staffing/admin support to deliver and oversee our academics. To date, we believe our focus on these

Amendment Request – Ascent Academies of Utah

		factors has enabled us to maintain a strong and stable financial position that is capable of providing all the resources our current students need for their individual success.
Percentage of Campus Directors attending network director meetings and percent indicating satisfaction on collaboration with educators on annual survey: $\geq 90\%$	Yes	
Annual performance evaluations for Lead/Campus Directors	Yes	
All school improvement goals submitted by August 1 st and meeting governing board standard.	Yes	
Percentage of Parents responding with satisfaction on annual survey when asked if their child is being challenged by the curriculum: $\geq 90\%$	Yes	
Percentage of teachers attending all network-wide professional development days: $\geq 90\%$	Yes	
Two or more family orientation days held each year	Yes	
One or more network-wide enrichment activities held per grade for students each semester	Yes	

Requested Amendment(s) to Charter

Postponement of opening year.

Describe the reason for postponing the school’s opening year.

In May of 2020, the State Board of Education approved Ascent Academies’ application to open a new campus in a large-scale planned community in Saratoga Springs. The future home of our new campus has been incorporated into a master development that spans over 1,200 acres and will consist of over 3,000 residences. This type of large planned community requires significant collaboration with city planners and engineers. Unfortunately, delays related to COVID-19 have slowed down the city approval processes for the development as a whole. While this only resulted in a few months of delay, those few months were critical to opening our school on time and with the infrastructure we want in place. Following the last city meeting, we realized it would be wise to delay opening our school rather than move forward during a time with so many variables and uncertainties. It is important to note that we have already secured the location, and a delay would not cost us anything. We recognize the decision to postpone our opening year would require an amendment to our charter agreement. Accordingly, we reached out to SCSB staff to get their advice and direction. We hope you recognize that this was not a decision we wanted to make, but it was a decision that needed to be made in the best interest of our new school. If you have any questions or would like more information, please let us know.