

RESOLUTION NO. 26-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ASCEND COLLEGE PREP EXPRESSING INTENT TO PURSUE CHARTER AUTHORIZATION THROUGH THE COLORADO CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE

WHEREAS, Ascend College Prep has operated as a public contract school serving students and families in Colorado Springs and the surrounding areas through a partnership with the Education ReEnvisioned Board of Cooperative Education Services (“ERBOCES”);

WHEREAS, the mission of Ascend College Prep is to prepare and inspire students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens through rigorous academic courses, personalized electives, and active community engagement;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Ascend College Prep (“Board”) remains fully committed to ensuring educational continuity, institutional stability, and uninterrupted services for currently enrolled and future students and families;

WHEREAS, during the 2026 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly adopted Senate Bill 26-023 (“SB26-023”), which significantly alters the legal and financial framework governing contract schools in Colorado;

WHEREAS, the provisions of SB26-023 materially impact the operational and financial viability of contract schools, including schools operating through Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”), thereby eliminating the school’s ability to continue operating under its existing contract school governance structure effective June 30, 2026;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that these statutory changes necessitate the pursuit of an alternative public school authorization pathway in order to preserve the school’s mission, educational program, and long-term sustainability;

WHEREAS, the Colorado Charter School Institute (“CSI”), established pursuant to Colorado law, serves as an independent statewide charter school authorizer with the capacity to authorize and oversee public charter schools throughout the state;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that any authorization through the Colorado Charter School Institute (“CSI”) within the geographic boundaries of Academy School District 20 (“District”) will require the District to waive or relinquish its Exclusive Chartering Authority (“ECA”) pursuant to Colorado law, and the Board expresses its desire to work collaboratively and in good faith with District leadership to pursue a long-term partnership that supports educational choice, organizational stability, and continued service to students and families within the community;

WHEREAS, given the accelerated implementation timeline associated with SB26-023, the Board finds that authorization through CSI is the only feasible mechanism through which the school may continue operating without disruption to students and families;

WHEREAS, the Board further believes that initiating the formal application process with CSI is in the best interests of the school community and necessary to maintain organizational continuity and public accountability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ASCEND COLLEGE PREP THAT:

1. The Board formally expresses its intent to pursue charter school authorization through the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI).
2. The Board authorizes the school administration, legal counsel, and designated representatives to initiate communications, planning activities, and formal application procedures necessary to seek authorization from CSI.
3. The Board directs school leadership to continue working collaboratively with families, faculty, students, community stakeholders, and relevant state and local entities throughout this transition process.
4. The Board affirms its commitment to maintaining uninterrupted educational services and to protecting the interests of currently enrolled students and families during any transition in governance or authorization status.
5. The Board acknowledges that this action is being undertaken as a direct response to the operational and financial impacts created by SB26-023 and in fulfillment of the Board's fiduciary responsibility to preserve the continued existence and success of the school.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 19th day of May, 2026, by the Board of Directors of Ascend College Prep.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ascend College Prep


Signed: Marnie Ginsberg, Board Chair


Certified: Claire Paulene, Secretary