



September 22, 2026

Suzanne Romero
Board of Directors, Ascend College Prep
1650 Telstar Drive, Suite 110
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Institutional Review Board
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Dear UCCS Institutional Review Board:

The Ascend College Prep Board of Directors has reviewed the research proposed by Jeremiah Houck, titled "Choice Made: Beyond Written Assignments and Tests". The study examines the experiences of K–12 teachers in charter and innovation schools who choose to incorporate nontraditional assignments into academic courses. The research also explores how teachers' prior experiences with studio or visual arts may influence those decisions and how perceived autonomy relates to the use of nontraditional assignments.

As part of this research, Mr. Houck has requested access to Ascend College Prep faculty members as potential research participants. Participation by Ascend faculty will be entirely voluntary and will be conducted in accordance with the research protocol approved by the UCCS Institutional Review Board. Participation or non-participation will have no effect on an employee's position, evaluation, responsibilities, or standing at Ascend College Prep.

Although this research involves adult faculty members and does not require access to Ascend students or student educational records, the Board believes it is appropriate to review research conducted at or involving Ascend College Prep and to formally document access to the school and its employees for research purposes.

After reviewing the proposed research, the Board of Directors approves Ascend's participation as a research site and grants Mr. Houck permission to recruit Ascend faculty members for participation in the study. This approval is contingent upon approval of the research protocol by the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Institutional Review Board and compliance with the final IRB-approved protocol.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Romero

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President, Board of Directors