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Form 990
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)
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Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990

OMB No 1545-0047
2015
Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning 07-01-2015, and ending 06-30-2016

B Check if applicable
Address change
Name change
Initial return
Final return/terminated
Amended return
Application pending

C Name of organization ASCEND LEARNING INC
Doing business as
Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite 205 ROCKAWAY PARKWAY NO 6TH FL
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code BROOKLYN, NY 11212

D Employer identification number 33-1200239
E Telephone number (347) 464-7600
G Gross receipts \$ 8,075,998

F Name and address of principal officer STEVEN WILSON 205 ROCKAWAY PARKWAY NO 6TH FL BROOKLYN, NY 11212

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? No Yes
H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes No
If "No," attach a list (see instructions)

I Tax-exempt status 501(c)(3) 501(c) () (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: WWW ASCENDLEARNING ORG

H(c) Group exemption number

K Form of organization Corporation Trust Association Other

L Year of formation 2008

M State of legal domicile NY

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities ASCEND PROVIDES CHARTER SCHOOLS WITH EDUCATION, MANAGEMENT, AND FACILITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
2 Check this box if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets
3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a) 5
4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b) 4
5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2015 (Part V, line 2a) 126
6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary) 4
7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12 0
7b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34 0

Table with columns: Revenue, Expenses, Net Assets or Fund Balances, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows include contributions, program service revenue, investment income, other revenue, total revenue, grants paid, benefits, salaries, fundraising fees, other expenses, total expenses, revenue less expenses, total assets, total liabilities, net assets or fund balances.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here
Signature of officer: *****
Date: 2017-05-13
Preparer: STEVEN WILSON, CEO AND DIRECTOR

Paid Preparer Use Only
Print/Type preparer's name: GARRETT M HIGGINS
Preparer's signature: GARRETT M HIGGINS
Date: 2017-05-12
Check if self-employed:
PTIN: P00543209
Firm's name: PKF O'CONNOR DAVIES LLP
Firm's EIN: 27-1728945
Firm's address: 500 MAMARONECK AVENUE, HARRISON, NY 105281633
Phone no: (914) 381-8900

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) Yes No

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission

THE MISSION OF ASCEND LEARNING, INC IS TO DEVELOP A SCALABLE SOLUTION TO THE UNDERACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN, A SYSTEM OF URBAN COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOLS THAT, OPERATING WITH WIDELY AVAILABLE RESOURCES, (CONTINUED ON SCHEDULE O) POST ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS EQUAL OR SUPERIOR TO SUBURBAN SCHOOLS EDUCATING STUDENTS FROM MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? Yes No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? Yes No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

4a (Code) (Expenses \$ 6,335,455 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ 7,131,078)
CHARTER SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND FACILITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN NEW YORK CITY

4b (Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4c (Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O)
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses ▶ 6,335,455

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	Yes	
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)?	Yes	
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>		No
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>		No
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>		No
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>		No
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>		No
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>		No
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>		No
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>		No
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>	Yes	
b Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>		No
c Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>	Yes	
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>	Yes	
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>		No
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	Yes	
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>	Yes	
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>		No
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		No
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		No
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>		No
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>		No
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>		No
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i> (see instructions)		No
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>		No
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>		No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		No
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

Table with 3 columns: Question ID, Question Text, and Answer. Rows include questions 21 through 38 regarding grants, tax-exempt bonds, excess benefit transactions, and controlled entities.

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

Table with columns for question number, question text, and Yes/No response boxes. Includes sections for backup withholding, employee reporting, foreign accounts, prohibited tax shelter transactions, charitable contributions, and health insurance issuers.

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure

For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O		
1b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent		
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		No
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		No
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?		No
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?		No
7b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?		No
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following		
8a	The governing body?	Yes	
8b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	Yes	
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O		No

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		No
10b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?		
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	Yes	
11b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	Yes	
12b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	Yes	
12c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	Yes	
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	Yes	
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	Yes	
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
15a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	Yes	
15b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	Yes	
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)		
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		No
16b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed NY

18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.
 Own website Another's website Upon request Other (explain in Schedule O)

19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year

20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records
 ▶ ANDREW EPSTEIN 205 ROCKAWAY PARKWAY 6TH FL BROOKLYN, NY 11212 (347) 464-7600

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)							(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former				
(1) MARTY LINSKY PRESIDENT	2 00	X		X					0	0	0
(2) MARGARET ANADU TREASURER	2 00	X		X					0	0	0
(3) MATTHEW CLARK SECRETARY	2 00	X		X					0	0	0
(4) JONATHAN ROSENBERG DIRECTOR	2 00	X							0	0	0
(5) STEVEN WILSON DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	60 00	X		X					299,103	0	15,661
(6) ANDREW EPSTEIN CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	60 00			X					179,639	0	6,166
(7) SUSAN POLLOCK CHIEF REAL ESTATE OFFICER	60 00			X					221,205	0	23,996
(8) ELIZABETH SCHMIDT CHIEF CURRICULUM OFFICER	60 00				X				156,319	0	21,944
(9) ELENA DAY CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER	60 00				X				169,308	0	23,894
(10) BRANDON SORLIE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER	60 00				X				173,674	0	14,282
(11) DELLIANNA BURROWS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL	60 00					X			146,306	0	6,640
(12) EMEKA IBEKWEH DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TE	60 00					X			192,562	0	6,088
(13) CHARLISE MANUEL DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	60 00					X			141,359	0	9,762
(14) ELIZABETH GOLDFARB MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL	60 00					X			150,602	0	12,283

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

		(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a Federated campaigns 1a _____					
	b Membership dues 1b _____					
	c Fundraising events 1c _____					
	d Related organizations 1d _____					
	e Government grants (contributions) 1e _____ 643,577					
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above 1f _____ 301,054					
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$ _____					
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f ▶		944,631			
Program Service Revenue	2a MANAGEMENT FEES _____ Business Code 541610	7,131,078	7,131,078			
	b _____					
	c _____					
	d _____					
	e _____					
	f All other program service revenue					
	g Total. Add lines 2a-2f ▶		7,131,078			
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) ▶	32			32	
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds ▶					
	5 Royalties ▶					
	6a Gross rents	(i) Real				
		(ii) Personal				
		b Less rental expenses				
		c Rental income or (loss)				
	d Net rental income or (loss) ▶					
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities				
		(ii) Other				
		b Less cost or other basis and sales expenses				
		c Gain or (loss)				
	d Net gain or (loss) ▶					
	8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18 a					
		b Less direct expenses b				
		c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events ▶				
	9a Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19 a					
		b Less direct expenses b				
		c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities ▶				
	10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances a					
b Less cost of goods sold b						
c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory ▶						
Miscellaneous Revenue	Business Code					
11a MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE _____ 900099	257			257		
b _____						
c _____						
d All other revenue						
e Total. Add lines 11a-11d ▶		257				
12 Total revenue. See Instructions ▶		8,075,998	7,131,078	0	289	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A)

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

		(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.					
1	Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21				
2	Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3	Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4	Benefits paid to or for members				
5	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	1,304,674	1,148,111	104,376	52,187
6	Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7	Other salaries and wages	3,980,999	3,503,280	318,480	159,239
8	Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	40,878	35,973	3,270	1,635
9	Other employee benefits	175,002	154,435	13,711	6,856
10	Payroll taxes	379,793	334,216	30,385	15,192
11	Fees for services (non-employees)				
a	Management	83,057	1,612	80,893	552
b	Legal	46,445		46,445	
c	Accounting	12,500		12,500	
d	Lobbying				
e	Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f	Investment management fees				
g	Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)	844,401	283,117	557,685	3,599
12	Advertising and promotion	39,938	35,944	3,994	
13	Office expenses	156,619	140,503	15,122	994
14	Information technology	73,022	64,614	6,193	2,215
15	Royalties				
16	Occupancy	182,825	164,544	18,281	
17	Travel	138,620	121,986	11,089	5,545
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19	Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20	Interest	18,100	15,928	1,448	724
21	Payments to affiliates				
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	124,484	109,547	9,958	4,979
23	Insurance	13,986	12,307	1,120	559
24	Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O)				
a	STAFF DEVELOPMENT	158,088	141,917	16,171	
b	CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	33,050	29,745	3,305	
c	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	30,831	27,747	3,084	
d	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	12,391		12,391	
e	All other expenses	11,081	9,929	1,152	
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	7,860,784	6,335,455	1,271,053	254,276
26	Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A)		(B)
		Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	69,865	1	113,403
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	629	2	26,620
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	636,467	3	607,065
	4 Accounts receivable, net		4	
	5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	42,327	9	118,726
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment—cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 303,854		
	b Less accumulated depreciation	10b 213,118	110,667	10c 90,736
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities		11	
	12 Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13 Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11	400,000	13	400,000
	14 Intangible assets	127,787	14	73,282
	15 Other assets See Part IV, line 11	1,994,474	15	2,435,631
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	3,382,216	16	3,865,463	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	663,775	17	531,808
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue		19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22 Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23	
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties	1,600,000	24	2,000,000
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D		25	
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	2,263,775	26	2,531,808
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.			
	27 Unrestricted net assets	1,018,441	27	1,333,655
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets	100,000	28	0
	29 Permanently restricted net assets		29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.			
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		30	
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund		31	
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		32	
33 Total net assets or fund balances	1,118,441	33	1,333,655	
34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	3,382,216	34	3,865,463	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	8,075,998
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	7,860,784
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	215,214
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	1,118,441
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	0
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	1,333,655

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		No
2b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	Yes	
2c	If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O	Yes	
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		No
3b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

**SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990EZ)**

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

2015
Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
ASCEND LEARNING INC

Employer identification number
33-1200239

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E (Form 990 or 990-EZ))
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state _____
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)** (Complete Part II)
- 9 An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975 See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III)
- 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2) See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box in lines 11a through 11d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e, 11f, and 11g
 - a **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
 - b **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s) **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
 - c **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions) **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
 - d **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions) **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
 - e Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization
 - f Enter the number of supported organizations _____
 - g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s)

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii)EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1- 9 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
Total						

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
 (Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a)2011	(b)2012	(c)2013	(d)2014	(e)2015	(f)Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any unusual grants)	1,329	47,000	300,000	789,353	944,631	2,082,313
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	1,329	47,000	300,000	789,353	944,631	2,082,313
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						258,336
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						1,823,977

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a)2011	(b)2012	(c)2013	(d)2014	(e)2015	(f)Total
7 Amounts from line 4	1,329	47,000	300,000	789,353	944,631	2,082,313
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources			369	236	32	637
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI)					257	257
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						2,083,207
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (see instructions)					12	18,751,470

13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here**

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2015 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	87.560 %
15 Public support percentage for 2014 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	73.630 %

- 16a 33 1/3% support test—2015.** If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization
- b 33 1/3% support test—2014.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization
- 17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2015.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization
- b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2014.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization
- 18 Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a)2011	(b)2012	(c)2013	(d)2014	(e)2015	(f)Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a)2011	(b)2012	(c)2013	(d)2014	(e)2015	(f)Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here** ▶

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2015 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	
16 Public support percentage from 2014 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2015 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	
18 Investment income percentage from 2014 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	

19a 33 1/3% support tests—2015. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶

b 33 1/3% support tests—2014. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3% and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ▶

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 11 of Part I. If you checked 11a of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked 11b of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked 11c of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked 11d of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.</i>		
2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).</i>		
3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? <i>If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below.</i>		
b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.</i>		
c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.</i>		
4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? <i>If "Yes" and if you checked 11a or 11b in Part I, answer (b) and (c) below.</i>		
b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.</i>		
c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.</i>		
5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed, (ii) the reasons for each such action, (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action, and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).</i>		
b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (a) its supported organizations, (b) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (c) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (defined in IRC 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35-percent controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).</i>		
8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described in line 7? <i>If "Yes," complete Part II of Schedule L (Form 990).</i>		
9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined in line 9(a)) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
c Did a disqualified person (as defined in line 9(a)) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of IRC 4943 because of IRC 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? <i>If "Yes," answer b below.</i>		
b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? <i>(Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)</i>		
11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
a A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (b) and (c) below, the governing body of a supported organization?		
b A family member of a person described in (a) above?		
c A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? <i>If "Yes" to a, b, or c, provide detail in Part VI.</i>		

Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)**Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations**

- 1** Did the directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? If "No," describe in **Part VI** how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.
- 2** Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? If "Yes," explain in **Part VI** how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised or controlled the supporting organization.

	Yes	No
1		
2		

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

- 1** Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? If "No," describe in **Part VI** how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).

	Yes	No
1		

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

- 1** Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (1) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (2) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (3) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?
- 2** Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? If "No," explain in **Part VI** how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).
- 3** By reason of the relationship described in (2), did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? If "Yes," describe in **Part VI** the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.

	Yes	No
1		
2		
3		

Section E. Type III Functionally-Integrated Supporting Organizations

- 1** Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (**see instructions**)
- a** The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete **line 2** below.
- b** The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete **line 3** below.
- c** The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a government entity (see instructions).
- 2** **Activities Test. Answer (a) and (b) below.**

- a** Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? If "Yes," then in **Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain** how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.
- b** Did the activities described in (a) constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? If "Yes," explain in **Part VI** the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.
- 3** **Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer (a) and (b) below.**
- a** Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? Provide details in Part VI.
- b** Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs and activities of each of its supported organizations? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.

	Yes	No
2a		
2b		
3a		
3b		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

- 1** Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov 20, 1970 **See instructions.** All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E

Section A - Adjusted Net Income

	(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1 Net short-term capital gain	1	
2 Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3 Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4 Add lines 1 through 3	4	
5 Depreciation and depletion	5	
6 Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7 Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8 Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6 and 7 from line 4)	8	

Section B - Minimum Asset Amount

	(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1 Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year)	1	
a Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in Part VI) _____		
2 Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt use assets	2	
3 Subtract line 2 from line 1d	3	
4 Cash deemed held for exempt use Enter 1-1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions)	4	
5 Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6 Multiply line 5 by 0.35	6	
7 Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8 Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8	

Section C - Distributable Amount

		Current Year
1 Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A)	1	
2 Enter 85% of line 1	2	
3 Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A)	3	
4 Enter greater of line 2 or line 3	4	
5 Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6 Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions)	6	
7 Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally-integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions) <input type="checkbox"/>		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section D - Distributions	Current Year
1 Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	
2 Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	
3 Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	
4 Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	
5 Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required)	
6 Other distributions (describe in Part VI) See instructions	
7 Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6	
8 Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI) See instructions	
9 Distributable amount for 2015 from Section C, line 6	
10 Line 8 amount divided by Line 9 amount	

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2015	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2015
1 Distributable amount for 2015 from Section C, line 6			
2 Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2015 (reasonable cause required--see instructions)			
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2015			
a			
b			
c			
d From 2013.			
e From 2014.			
f Total of lines 3a through e			
g Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
h Applied to 2015 distributable amount			
i Carryover from 2010 not applied (see instructions)			
j Remainder Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f			
4 Distributions for 2015 from Section D, line 7			
\$ _____			
a Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b Applied to 2015 distributable amount			
c Remainder Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4			
5 Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2015, if any Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions)			
6 Remaining underdistributions for 2015 Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions)			
7 Excess distributions carryover to 2016. Add lines 3j and 4c			
8 Breakdown of line 7			
a			
b			
c Excess from 2013.			
d From 2014.			
e From 2015.			

Part VI Supplemental Information.

Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

Facts And Circumstances Test

Return Reference	Explanation
SCHEDULE A, PART II, LINE 10, EXPLANATION OF OTHER INCOME	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE - 2015 AMOUNT \$ 257

SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements
► Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.
► Attach to Form 990.
Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047
2015
Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
ASCEND LEARNING INC
Employer identification number
33-1200239

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)

Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education) Preservation of an historically important land area

Protection of natural habitat Preservation of a certified historic structure

Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

	Held at the End of the Year
a Total number of conservation easements	2a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ► _____

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ► _____

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? Yes No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year
► _____

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year
► \$ _____

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4) (B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? Yes No

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items

(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ► \$ _____

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ► \$ _____

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items

a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ► \$ _____

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ► \$ _____

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets

(continued)

- 3** Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)
- a** Public exhibition
 - b** Scholarly research
 - c** Preservation for future generations
 - d** Loan or exchange programs
 - e** Other
- 4** Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII
- 5** During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? Yes No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a** Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? Yes No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table
- | | Amount |
|--|-----------|
| c Beginning balance | 1c |
| d Additions during the year | 1d |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e |
| f Ending balance | 1f |
- 2a** Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability? Yes No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

- 2** Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as
- a** Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶
 - b** Permanent endowment ▶
 - c** Temporarily restricted endowment ▶
- The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%
- 3a** Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by
- | | Yes | No |
|--|---------------|----|
| (i) unrelated organizations | 3a(i) | |
| (ii) related organizations | 3a(ii) | |
| b If "Yes" on 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? | 3b | |
- 4** Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements		40,255	31,796	8,459
d Equipment		32,542	16,380	16,162
e Other		231,057	164,942	66,115
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c))				90,736

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	8,075,998
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12			
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a		
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b		
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	0
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	8,075,998
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	0
5	Total revenue Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)		5	8,075,998

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	7,860,784
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a		
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	0
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	7,860,784
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1 :			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	0
5	Total expenses Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)		5	7,860,784

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b Also complete this part to provide any additional information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART X, LINE 2	ASCEND RECOGNIZES THE EFFECT OF INCOME TAX POSITIONS ONLY IF THOSE POSITIONS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN NOT TO BE SUSTAINED MANAGEMENT HAS DETERMINED THAT ASCEND HAD NO UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS THAT WOULD REQUIRE FINANCIAL STATEMENT RECOGNITION OR DISCLOSURE ASCEND IS NO LONGER SUBJECT TO EXAMINATIONS BY THE APPLICABLE TAXING JURISDICTIONS FOR YEARS PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 2013

Part XIII Supplemental Information *(continued)*

Return Reference	Explanation

**Schedule J
(Form 990)**

Compensation Information

OMB No 1545-0047

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees
 ▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.
 ▶ Attach to Form 990.

2015
Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
 Internal Revenue Service

▶ Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Name of the organization ASCEND LEARNING INC	Employer identification number 33-1200239
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Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

	Yes	No								
<p>1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions	<input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments	<input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees	<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)		
<input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use									
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions	<input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence									
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments	<input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees									
<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)									
<p>b If any of the boxes in line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain.</p>	1b									
<p>2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?</p>	2									
<p>3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee				
<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract									
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study									
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee									
<p>4 During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:</p> <p>a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?</p>	4a	No								
<p>b Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?</p>	4b	No								
<p>c Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?</p> <p>If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.</p>	4c	No								
<p>Only 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.</p>										
<p>5 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:</p> <p>a The organization?</p>	5a	No								
<p>b Any related organization?</p> <p>If "Yes," on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.</p>	5b	No								
<p>6 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:</p> <p>a The organization?</p>	6a	No								
<p>b Any related organization?</p> <p>If "Yes," on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.</p>	6b	No								
<p>7 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III.</p>	7	Yes								
<p>8 Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III.</p>	8	No								
<p>9 If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?</p>	9									

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII.

Note. The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column(B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
	(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
See Additional Data Table							

Part III Supplemental Information

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
PART I, LINE 7	THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS LISTED ON PART VII RECEIVED A PERFORMANCE BASED BONUS IN THEIR 2015 W-2 STEVEN WILSON, CEO EMEKA IBEKWEH, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY CHARLISE MANUEL, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
ASCEND LEARNING INC

Employer identification number

33-1200239

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11	FORM 990 IS REVIEWED BY MANAGEMENT AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR APPROVAL IF CHANGES ARE REQUIRED, THE ORGANIZATION WILL THEN FORWARD THE FORM 990 TO THE AUDITING FIRM AND A FINAL VERSION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE IRS SUBMISSION
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C	THE SCHOOL SHARES ITS CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY WITH BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS AS PART OF THEIR REGULAR MEETINGS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND KEY EMPLOYEES ARE EXPECTED TO DECLARE IF AT ANY POINT A CONFLICT OF INTEREST ARISES AFTER DISCLOSURE OF A CONFLICT, THE INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION MUST RECUSE THEMSELVES FROM VOTING ON THE MATTER SUCH MATTERS INVOLVING THE EXISTENCE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARE TO BE DOCUMENTED IN THE MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD IN ADDITION, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SIGN AN ANNUAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15	FOR SCHOOL DIRECTORS, AN ANNUAL MEETING IS HELD TO REVIEW PERFORMANCE, SCOPE OF WORK (I E. SIZE OF SCHOOL), SALARY COMPARABLES FROM NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS AND DETERMINE COMPENSATION FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR THIS HAPPENS ANNUALLY AND IS DOCUMENTED IN THE BOARD MINUTES THE LAST TIME THIS OCCURRED WAS IN 2015
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	THE ORGANIZATION MAKES ITS FORM 990 AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 6104 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE THE RETURN IS POSTED ON GUIDESTAR.ORG IN ADDITION, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST AT 205 ROCKAWAY PARKWAY, BROOKLYN, NY 11212, OR BY CALLING THE ORGANIZATION DIRECTLY AT (347)464-7600

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 11G	RECRUITING PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 206,626 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 34,288 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 77 TOTAL EXPENSES 240,991 CONSULTANTS - EDUCATION PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 66,209 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 7,356 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 0 TOTAL EXPENSES 73,565 PAYROLL SERVICES PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 261 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 13,117 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 90 TOTAL EXPENSES 13,468 DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 307 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 15,414 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 105 TOTAL EXPENSES 15,826 EXECUTIVE CONSULTANTS PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 5,744 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 288,257 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 1,967 TOTAL EXPENSES 295,968 CURRICULUM & FACILITIES CONSULTANTS PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 2,975 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 149,300 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 1,019 TOTAL EXPENSES 153,294 ADMIN/TEMP STAFFING SERVICES PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 995 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 49,953 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 341 TOTAL EXPENSES 51,289
FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C	THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSIGHT OF THE AUDIT AND SELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS