Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2021

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
- [X] a single-employer plan
- [ ] a DFE (specify) ____

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report
- [ ] the final return/report
- [X] an amended return/report
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] Form 5558
- [ ] automatic extension
- [ ] the DFVC program
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
ASCEND LEARNING LLC 401(K) PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 05/01/1983

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
ASCEND LEARNING LLC

11161 OVERBROOK ROAD
LEAWOOD, KS 66211

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-2602465

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 913-661-5569

2d Business code (see instructions) 519100

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	06/06/2023	GARY MADSEN
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor

3b Administrator's EIN

3c Administrator's telephone number

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:

a Sponsor's name

c Plan Name

4b EIN

4d PN

5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	1816
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	1420
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	1516
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	453
d Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	1969
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	3
f Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**	**6f**	1972
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	1904
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	127
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2E 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D 3H

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

- (1) [ ] Insurance
- (2) [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- (3) [X] Trust
- (4) [ ] General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

- (1) [ ] Insurance
- (2) [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- (3) [X] Trust
- (4) [ ] General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) [X] **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) [ ] **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) [ ] **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary

b General Schedules

- (1) [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) [ ] 0 **A** (Insurance Information)
- (4) [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) [ ] **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) [ ] **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2021 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2021 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**	**2021** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan	**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶
ASCEND LEARNING LLC 401(K) PLAN	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500	**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)
ASCEND LEARNING LLC	26-2602465

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . [X] Yes [ ] No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
37 60 64 65	RECORDKEEPER	166570	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

STRATEGIC ADVISORS, INC.

04-2654524

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27	ADVISOR	43370	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVIECS, INC.

36-4291971

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
16	CONSULTANT	32000	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

KESTRA ADVISORY SERVICES, LLC

35-2552359

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
16	CONSULTANT	8000	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ABF SM CAP VAL R5 - DST ASSET MANA 430 W 7TH STREET STE 219432 KANSAS CITY, MO 64105	0.04%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK HI YLD BD INST - BNY MELLON 301 BELLEVUE PARKWAY WILMINGTON, DE 19809	0.15%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
METWEST TOT RTN BD I - BNY MELLON 301 BELLEVUE PARKWAY WILMINGTON, DE 19809	0.10%

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
MFS INTL INTR VAL R4 - MFS SERVICE 04-2865649	0.15%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
MFS MID CAP VALUE R4 - MFS SERVICE 04-2865649	0.15%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

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Part III **Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)**
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name: BROWN SMITH WALLACE LLP
b EIN: 43-1001367
c Position: BENEFIT PLAN AUDITOR
d Address: 6 CITYPLACE DRIVE
SUITE 900
ST. LOUIS, MO 63141
e Telephone: 314-983-1200

Explanation: CHANGE WAS DUE TO A MERGER. BROWN SMITH WALLACE LLP WAS PURCHASED AND MERGED INTO ARMANINO. NO MATERIAL DISPUTES OR MATTERS OF DISAGREEMENT.

a Name:
b EIN:
c Position:
d Address:
e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:
b EIN:
c Position:
d Address:
e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:
b EIN:
c Position:
d Address:
e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:
b EIN:
c Position:
d Address:
e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2021

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan
ASCEND LEARNING LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ASCEND LEARNING LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
26-2602465

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	0	0
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	2505621	2607150
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	1336748	1645058
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	0	0
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	105208925	130739830
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

			(a) Beginning of Year	**(b)** End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:			
	(1) Employer securities	**1d(1)**	0	0
	(2) Employer real property	**1d(2)**	0	0
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	**1e**	0	0
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	**1f**	109051294	134992038
	Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	**1g**	0	0
h	Operating payables	**1h**	0	0
i	Acquisition indebtedness	**1i**	0	0
j	Other liabilities	**1j**	0	0
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	**1k**	0	0
	Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	**1l**	109051294	134992038

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

	Income		**(a)** Amount	**(b)** Total
a	**Contributions:**			
	(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	**2a(1)(A)**	3140914	
	(B) Participants	**2a(1)(B)**	11970566	
	(C) Others (including rollovers)	**2a(1)(C)**	2641076	
	(2) Noncash contributions	**2a(2)**	0	
	(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	**2a(3)**		17752556
b	**Earnings on investments:**			
	(1) Interest:			
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	**2b(1)(A)**	330	
	(B) U.S. Government securities	**2b(1)(B)**	0	
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	**2b(1)(C)**	0	
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	**2b(1)(D)**	0	
	(E) Participant loans	**2b(1)(E)**	72713	
	(F) Other	**2b(1)(F)**	0	
	(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	**2b(1)(G)**		73043
	(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	**2b(2)(A)**	0	
	(B) Common stock	**2b(2)(B)**	0	
	(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	**2b(2)(C)**	4325616	
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	**2b(2)(D)**		4325616
	(3) Rents	**2b(3)**		0
	(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	**2b(4)(A)**	0	
	(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	**2b(4)(B)**	0	
	(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	**2b(4)(C)**		0
	(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	**2b(5)(A)**	0	
	(B) Other	**2b(5)(B)**	0	
	(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	**2b(5)(C)**		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		0
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		11981581
c Other income	2c		0
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		34132796
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	7940923	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		7940923
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		1189
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		0
h Interest expense	2h		0
i Administrative expenses: **(1)** Professional fees	2i(1)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	0	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)	43370	
(4) Other	2i(4)	206570	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(4)**	2i(5)		249940
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		8192052
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		25940744
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		0
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		0

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) [X] Unmodified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [ ] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) [X] DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 **(2)** [ ] DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) **(3)** [ ] neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: ARMANINO LLP **(2)** EIN: 94-6214841

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. **(2)** [ ] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	4a		X	

			Yes	No	Amount
b	Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	**4b**		X	
c	Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	**4c**		X	
d	Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	**4d**		X	
e	Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		5000000
f	Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**		X	
g	Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4g**		X	
h	Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4h**		X	
i	Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**	X		
j	Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4j**		X	
k	Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**		X	
l	Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m	If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**		X	
n	If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3	**4n**		X	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	**5b(2)** EIN(s)	**5b(3)** PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2021

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan
ASCEND LEARNING LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ASCEND LEARNING LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
26-2602465

Part I Distributions

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions **1**

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): 04-6568107

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year **3**

Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) **6a**

b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year **6b**

c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) **6c**

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Part III Amendments

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ..... ☐ **Increase** ☐ **Decrease** ☐ **Both** ☐ **No**

Part IV ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14c**	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:
☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?
☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify):

20 **PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation _____

Ascend Learning LLC 401(k)

Financial Statements
and Supplemental Information

December 31, 2021 and 2020

armanino

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Participants and Plan Administrator of the
Ascend Learning LLC 401(k)

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of Ascend Learning LLC 401(k) (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section:

- the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- the information in the financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the 2021 Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments; administering the Plan; and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

2021 Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion—

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, is presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Auditor's Report on the 2020 Financial Statements

The 2020 financial statements of the Plan were audited by Brown Smith Wallace, LLP, whose practice became part of Armanino LLP as of August 1, 2021. As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed the predecessor auditor not to perform, and they did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the information certified by a qualified institution. Their report dated June 3, 2022, indicated that (a) because of the significance of the information that they did not audit, they were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion and accordingly, they did not express an opinion on the financial statements and supplemental schedules, and (b) the form and content of the information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedules other than that derived from the certified information, were presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.



Armanino LLP
St. Louis, Missouri

July 25, 2022

Ascend Learning LLC 401(k)
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value	$ 133,346,981	$ 107,714,546
Total investments at fair value	133,346,981	107,714,546
Notes receivable from participants	1,645,058	1,336,748
Net assets available for benefits	$ 134,992,039	$ 109,051,294

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Ascend Learning LLC 401(k)
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
Additions to net assets		
Contributions		
Employer	$ 3,140,914	$ 2,974,617
Participants	11,970,566	10,767,847
Rollovers	2,641,076	3,106,068
Total contributions	17,752,556	16,848,532
Investment income		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	11,898,032	12,645,894
Dividends and interest	4,325,912	2,907,152
Total investment income	16,223,944	15,553,046
Interest on notes receivable from participants	72,927	79,320
Total additions to net assets	34,049,427	32,480,898
Deductions from net assets		
Benefits paid to participants	7,942,112	5,414,364
Administrative expenses	166,570	118,906
Total deductions from net assets	8,108,682	5,533,270
Net increase in net assets available for benefits	25,940,745	26,947,628
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	109,051,294	82,103,666
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	$ 134,992,039	$ 109,051,294

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Ascend Learning LLC 401(k)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Ascend Learning LLC 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions, which is available from the Plan Administrator.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of Ascend Learning LLC (the "Company") and its direct and indirect subsidiaries who are age 18 or older. The Plan is a salary reduction plan subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute a percentage of their annual compensation, as defined by the Plan, subject to certain limitations under the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The Plan automatically enrolls eligible participants at a contribution rate of 3% of eligible compensation, unless the eligible participant elects otherwise. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or contribution Plans. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions not to exceed certain dollar limits established by the IRC. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan, and participants may modify their salary deferral elections at the beginning of each payroll period.

The Company may make matching contributions, if any, to be determined annually based on a percentage of employee contributions. During the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Company matched 50% of employee's first 6% of contributions in each pay period up to a maximum of 3% of their eligible compensation. The Company may make annual discretionary profit-sharing contributions in an amount determined by the board of directors at the end of the Plan year. To be eligible, a participant must complete at least one year of service. There were no profit sharing contributions made by the Company in 2021 or 2020.

Participant accounts

Upon enrollment in the Plan, participants may direct employee contributions, employer matching contributions, and annual discretionary contributions in any of the available investment options. The Plan currently offers various mutual funds investments as investment options for participants. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the Company's matching and profit-sharing contributions, and an allocation of Plan earnings and is charged with an allocation of administrative fees. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (continued)

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions plus actual earnings thereon. A participant is incrementally vested in the Company's matching and discretionary contributions over three years of credited service. Participants are fully vested at their normal retirement date, disability, or death, regardless of the number of years of participation.

Notes receivable from participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts up to a maximum of $50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance, whichever is less. The loans are secured by the remaining balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates that range from 4.25% to 6.50%. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Participant distributions

The full value of the participant's vested account is payable upon termination, death or disability. If the participant's account balance does not exceed $5,000, a lump-sum distribution, net of tax, is made. If the participant's balance exceeds $5,000, the participant may elect to defer distribution to a future date or (a) receive a lump-sum distribution equal to their vested account balance, (b) nonperiodic payments or installment payments, (c) have all of his or her distributions paid in the form of a direct trustee to trustee transfer to another eligible retirement plan designated by the participant. Participants who have attained age 59 ½ and continue to work may elect early withdrawal.

Fully vested participants may also withdraw certain basic contributions thereon only in the event of a financial hardship as defined by the Plan and the IRC.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

In April 2020, the Plan operationally adopted the changes permitted by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") allowing participants to receive Coronavirus-related distributions, loans, and suspend required minimum distributions during the year ended December 31, 2020.

Forfeitures

Forfeitures of non-vested balances may be used to reduce employer matching contributions and plan expenses. At December 31, 2021 and 2020, remaining forfeitures to be used in future periods were $3 and $801, respectively. Additions to forfeitures were $169,422 and $144,793 for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively. During 2021 and 2020, forfeiture amounts of $170,220 and $157,219, respectively, were utilized to reduce employer matching contributions.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("US GAAP").

Use of estimates in financial statement presentation

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with US GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment valuation and income recognition

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Ascend Learning LLC 401(k) Plan Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisors, and custodians. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements. Purchases and sales of investments are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation in fair value of investments includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year.

Payment of benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses are paid by the Plan. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

Notes receivable from participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent notes receivable from participants are reclassified as distributions in accordance with the provisions of the Plan. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2021 and 2020. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the Plan Administrator deems the participant loan to be in default, the participant loan balance is reduced, and a benefit payment is recorded.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Subsequent events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through July 25, 2022, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

3. CERTIFICATION OF INVESTMENT INFORMATION

The Plan's Administrator has elected the method of compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, as permitted under such election, the Plan Administrator has obtained certifications from Fidelity Management Trust Company (the "Trustee") stating all of the investment information provided by the Trustee and included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule are complete and accurate. Information as to the investments in the account of the Trustee, investment income, and all investment related information appearing in the accompanying statements and supplemental schedule are presented in reliance solely upon those certifications.

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The fair value framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 - Inputs to the valuation methodology included:

- quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;

- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;

- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;

- inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (continued)

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds registered with the SEC. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value ("NAV") and to transact at that price.

Collective trust: Valued at the NAV of units of a bank collective trust. The NAV, as provided by the trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2021:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	$133,346,981	$ -	$ -	$133,346,981

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2020:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	$107,714,546	$ -	$ -	$107,714,546

5. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their employer contributions.

6. INCOME TAX

The Plan's document is a non-standardized prototype agreement that received a favorable tax opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated March 31, 2014. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the tax opinion letter, the Plan administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and that the related trust was tax exempt as of December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRC. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

7. RISK AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

8. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Certain Plan investments are managed by the Trustee; therefore, these transactions qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the Plan for contract administration services amounted to $166,570 and $118,906 for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

Ascend Learning LLC 401(k)
EIN: 26-2602465; Plan: 001
Schedule H, Part IV, Item 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2021

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2035 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	$ 16,816,215
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2045 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	15,534,524
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2040 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	14,718,173
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2050 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	12,017,864
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2030 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	10,640,383
*	Fidelity Blue Chip Growth Fund K	Mutual Fund	**	9,027,031
*	Fidelity 500 Index Institutional Fund Premium Class	Mutual Fund	**	8,664,292
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2025 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	7,727,585
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2055 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	6,797,542
	MFS International Value Fund R4	Mutual Fund	**	4,458,163
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2020 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	2,681,930
*	Fidelity Mid Cap Index Institutional Fund Premium Class	Mutual Fund	**	2,625,572
	Vanguard VMMR Federal Money Market	Mutual Fund	**	2,607,150
	Metropolitan West Total Return Bond Fund M	Mutual Fund	**	2,566,642
	Columbia Dividend Income Fund Institutional 3 Class	Mutual Fund	**	2,327,715
	American Funds New World Fund R6	Mutual Fund	**	1,780,499
*	Fidelity Small Cap Index Fund Advantage	Mutual Fund	**	1,765,553
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2060 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,712,936
	MFS Mid Cap Value Fund R4	Mutual Fund	**	1,464,339
*	Fidelity Small Cap Growth K6	Mutual Fund	**	1,350,008
	Wells Fargo Advantage Discovery Fund R6	Mutual Fund	**	1,231,954
	Vanguard REIT Index Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	1,159,779
	BlackRock High Yield Bond Fund Institutional	Mutual Fund	**	1,041,372
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2015 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	697,420
	PIMCO Real Return Fund Institutional	Mutual Fund	**	623,162
	Vanguard Inst Target Retirement Income Fund	Mutual Fund	**	385,525
	American Beacon Small Cap Value Fund Class R5	Mutual Fund	**	382,798
	Vanguard Short Term Bond Ind Adm	Mutual Fund	**	378,311
	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2065 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	162,544
				133,346,981
*	Notes receivable from participants	Interest at 4.25% - 6.50% maturing through June 2041	-	1,645,058
				$ 134,992,039

* Represents a party-in-interest.
** Represents participant-directed investment.

Ascend Learning LLC 401(k)
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