

Copy for Records
(printed 7/2010)

Form **990-EZ**

**Short Form
Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax**

OMB No. 1545-1150

2008

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code
(except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)
Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds and controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990. All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$1,000,000 and total assets less than \$2,500,000 at the end of the year may use this form.
The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

A For the 2008 calendar year, or tax year beginning , 2008, and ending , 20

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Termination
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization: **Aspire Education Project**
 Number and street (or P.O. box, if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
PO Box 10083
 City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4
Oakland, CA 94610

D Employer identification number: **20 5274459**
E Telephone number: **(510) 658-7500**
F Group Exemption Number: **▶**

Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ).

G Accounting method: Cash Accrual
 Other (specify) ▶

I Website: ▶ www.aspireeducation.org

H Check if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

J Organization type (check only one) — 501(c) (3) ◀ (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Check if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$25,000. A return is not required, but if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return.

L Add lines 5b, 6b, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts; if \$1,000,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ▶ \$ **303,273.48**

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (See the instructions for Part I.)

		Revenue	
	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	4,034.45
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	286,239.03
	3 Membership dues and assessments	3	0
	4 Investment income	4	0
	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	0
	5b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	0
	5c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a) (attach schedule)	5c	0
	6 Special events and activities (complete applicable parts of Schedule G). If any amount is from gaming, check here <input type="checkbox"/>		
	6a Gross revenue (not including \$ 0 of contributions reported on line 1)	6a	0
	6b Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses	6b	0
	6c Net income or (loss) from special events and activities (Subtract line 6b from line 6a)	6c	0
	7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a	0
	7b Less: cost of goods sold	7b	0
	7c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c	0
	8 Other revenue (describe ▶ 0)	8	0
	9 Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8.	9	303,273.48
		Expenses	
	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (attach schedule)	10	500
	11 Benefits paid to or for members	11	0
	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	286,507.52
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	0
	14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	5,562.34
	15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	2,568.57
	16 Other expenses (describe ▶ see attached)	16	11,217.47
	17 Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16	17	306,656.00
		Net Assets	
	18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	(3,382.52)
	19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	(10,117.33)
	20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation)	20	0
	21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20	21	(13,499.85)

Part II Balance Sheets. If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are \$2,500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ.

(See the instructions for Part II.)

		(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22	Cash, savings, and investments	5,807.33	(1,016.52)
23	Land and buildings	0	0
24	Other assets (describe ▶ accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, deposits)	37,812.75	41,142.67
25	Total assets	32,005.42	40,126.15
26	Total liabilities (describe ▶)	42,122.75	53,626.00
27	Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	(10,117.33)	(13,499.85)

Part V Other Information (Note the statement requirements in the instructions for Part VI.)

		Yes	No
33	Did the organization engage in any activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a detailed description of each activity		✓
34	Were any changes made to the organizing or governing documents but not reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes		✓
35	If the organization had income from business activities, such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a (among others), but not reported on Form 990-T, attach a statement explaining your reason for not reporting the income on Form 990-T.		
a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more or section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements?		✓
b	If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?		
36	Was there a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or substantial contraction during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N		✓
37a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions. ▶ 37a _____		
b	Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?		✓
38a	Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still unpaid at the start of the period covered by this return?		✓
b	If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved 38b _____		
39	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9 39a _____		
b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities 39b _____		
40a	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 ▶ _____; section 4912 ▶ _____; section 4955 ▶ _____		
b	Section 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or did it become aware of an excess benefit transaction from a prior year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		✓
c	Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 ▶ _____		
d	Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization ▶ _____		
e	All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T.		✓
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed. ▶ _____		
42a	The books are in care of ▶ <u>Kenneth Husbands</u> Telephone no. ▶ (<u>925</u>) <u>354-4033</u> Located at ▶ <u>1904 Franklin St., Ste. 901, Oakland, CA</u> ZIP + 4 ▶ <u>94612-2923</u>		
b	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	Yes	No
	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶ _____		✓
	See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
c	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside of the U.S.?		✓
	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶ _____		
43	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041 —Check here <input type="checkbox"/> and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year ▶ 43 _____		
44	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ		✓
45	Is any related organization a controlled entity of the organization within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ		✓

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only. All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 46-49 and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

- | | Yes | No |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 46 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 47 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 48 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 49a | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 49b | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- 46** Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I
- 47** Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II
- 48** Is the organization operating a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E
- 49a** Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?
- b** If "Yes," was the related organization(s) a section 527 organization?
- 50** Complete this table for the five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans & deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
None				
Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶				

51 Complete this table for the five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
None		
Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 . . ▶		

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 _____

▶ Type or print name and title. _____

Paid Preparer's Use Only

Preparer's signature ▶ _____ Date _____ Check if self-employed

Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4 ▶ _____ EIN ▶ _____

Phone no. ▶ () _____

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions Yes No

Part I: line 16

Other Expenses

Fingerprinting	817.00
Job postings	225.00
Supplies	843.23
Telephone & telecommunications	3274.69
Web Hosting	133.86
Interest Expense	1782.77
Insurance	782.25
Membership dues	122.00
Advertizing Expense	300.00
Misc. Expenses	2067.19
Paypal Fees	186.71
Bad Dept Expenses	682.77
Total	11217.47

Part III Statement of Program Accomplishments

Line 28 **Individual Tutoring.** AEP provided tailored one-on-one tutoring in academic subjects and standardized test preparation to 150 students in 2008, 9% of whom come from families who earn below 400% of the federal poverty level and receive our services at reduced or no cost. Our tutoring helps students overcome obstacles that stand in the way of their education by increasing confidence and understanding of subject matter, improving grades, and increasing scores on crucial tests such as high school exit exams and college entrance exams. The individualized program means that we achieve the greatest impact in the least amount of time.

Line 29 **Academic Support for Schools and Other Institutions.** AEP coordinated after school centers at East Oakland School of the Arts and the Castlemont Information and Technology School, where we also provided academic tutoring. At the Bentley School and at Head Royce we ran supervised study centers and we provided tutors to the Leadership Prep, Metwest and BUILD Oakland afterschool programs. The goals of these programs include helping students to raise and maintain grades, improve comprehension of subject matter, and increase confidence and enjoyment in learning. Through these programs we reached approximately 725 students in 2008.

Line 30 **Community Reading Buddies.** We recruited over 100 junior and high school students to volunteer to spend two afternoons a week with a similar number of pre-k – 4th graders at Oakland Unified School District Childhood Development Centers. The primary focus of the eight week program is building language skills for children from predominantly non-English speaking families. The volunteers lead reading activities and literacy-based games while also serving as role models. At the same time, the volunteers learn from the children they work with, are provided with training in pedagogy and are exposed to the challenges and rewards of teaching.

Line 31 **Group Test Prep with Partner Organizations.** AEP provided standardized test preparation to students in cooperation with other East Bay nonprofits, including the Gooden Family Scholarship Fund and UC Berkeley's Educational Guidance Center. These programs target disadvantaged students and increase their likelihood of graduating from high school and/or attending college by improving their performance on standardized exams. These programs have improved the scores of over 80 students on the SAT, ACT or CAHSEE exams.