

# Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

*at*

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GUANGXI GAOJIE

LIUZHOU CITY/NANNING CITY, GUANGXI

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 11-13, 2015

## INTRODUCTION

On November 11-13, 2015, a Certification Inspection was completed on the Canadian International School Guangxi Gaojie, termed the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine whether the requirements for the British Columbia (BC) education program have been met, according to the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*. The inspection team (the Team), appointed by the Director of International Education (the Director), British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement)*, consisted of Dr Laurie Anderson (Chair) and Mr Ron Allen.

The School's BC Program has an enrolment of 184 students in Grade 10-12, distributed across three campuses, each housed within a larger public Chinese school: 1) The Liuzhou Railway # 1 School enrolls 79 students (3,500 students in the Chinese school); 2) The Nanning # 3 School enrolls 79 students (3,224 students in the Chinese school); and, 3) The Nanning #14 School enrolls 36 students in Gr 11 and 12 (5521 students in the Chinese school)

During their visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement and Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, Offshore Program Consultant (OPC), BC Principal, BC Vice-Principals and Teachers. Chinese Principals/Vice Principals and Chinese support/administrative staff. Meetings were held at the three campuses, and the concluding meeting held at the Nanning # 3 campus.

The Owner/Operator, Nanning Gaojie Education Consultant Co Ltd, is responsible for the BC Program.



The BC Program's philosophy, objectives and special features include:

The School's educational philosophy, as outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook, is to "Prepare students to be global citizens, empowered with the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help them succeed in life. The School recognizes and respects the distinctiveness of each student and the need for differentiated and personalized instruction."

The School's specific goals for 2015-16 are

- 1) Increase congruency of evaluation strategies between campuses ;
- 2) Increase and track communication between home and school and its impact;
- 3) Reduce discrepancy between school and exam marks;
- 4) Increase exam mark averages by at least 5%.

The Team would like to thank the Canadian International School Guanxi Gaojie for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

**The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School had one requirement from the previous inspection report:

- Must apply for and receive confirmation of exemption for PE 12 in order for students to receive credit

The School addressed the requirement within a month of the previous inspection.

Commendations:

The School is commended for dealing with this important issue so promptly. This ensures students receive their course credits in a timely manner.

**OWNERSHIP AND AGREEMENTS / BUILDING  
AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE 2.0**

**2.1 The Owner/Operator meets all other requirements as set forth in the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (The Agreement).**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator meets the requirements as per the Agreement.



**Commendation:**

The School is commended for establishing a twinning relationship with the High School, a program affiliated with Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo.

**2.1 (v) The Owner/Operator has completed and filed the Business Plan section with the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the Program.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team reviewed the Business Plan for the School, noting its plans for continued growth.

**2.2 The School meets local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC Program.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team reviewed the local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations and confirmed their compliance. The Team noted that each of the three School campuses has room for program expansion.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for working well within three large and complex school facilities.

### ADMINISTRATION 3.0

**3.2 Offshore Program Consultant (OPC) - The Owner/Operator may appoint an individual to act as Offshore Program Consultant. This individual must be confirmed by the Province and must meet all of the requirements set out in Section 14 of the Agreement.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Offshore Program Consultant (OPC) has been confirmed by the Province and meets the requirements as per Section 14 of the Agreement. The OPC performs additional duties: facilitating the twinning program with the High School, providing advice on post-secondary options, and, assisting with the placement of students in summer programs in BC. In addition, the OPC has a fluently bilingual Program Assistant with extensive educational experience in BC and China.



**3.3 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in Section 3.3 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School replaced the principal this year as the previous principal took a position in Japan. The incoming principal was a Vice-Principal at the School last year and taught for four years previously at another offshore school in China. The principal's duties and responsibilities are aligned with Section 3.3 of the Inspection Catalogue.

**3.4 The School meets the Administrative Support requirements as outlined in Section 3.4 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School meets or exceeds the Administrative Support requirements as outlined in Section 3.4 of the Inspection Catalogue. Each campus has a vice-principal, supported by daily communications and weekly visits by the principal. Each campus has two secretaries. Each class on each campus has a Chinese Homeroom teacher available to serve as a translator in communications with parents and the Chinese schools.

**Commendations:**

The School is commended for hiring a Vice-Principal at each campus, and for ensuring there is adequate administrative support at each campus also.

**3.5 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in Section 3.5 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team noted that the student records are up to date, complete and secured in a locked filing cabinet.



### 3.6 The School meets the Teacher Certification requirements as outlined in Section 3.6 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team confirms that all Authorized Persons under The Agreement possess valid and current certification under the BC Teacher Regulation Branch. The exception is one teacher whose TRB application is in process and there is a letter on file from the MoE approving the temporary exception.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 4.0

#### 4.1 The School meets the requirements for English Language Assessment and Acquisition as outlined in Section 4.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team confirms that Grade 10 students admitted to the CISGG complete an English Language Assessment. This assessment consists of listening, writing, grammar and reading components and is administered and marked by the principal and/or vice-principal. The assessment is offered to students during the summer months. Students who do not meet the proficiency standards are then streamed into the Foundations program and parents are informed that their children will require an additional year to complete the BC Graduation Program. Further assessment is carried out during the school year to ensure that students are progressing appropriately and will be able to enter into a full BC Program the following year. All students who enter the BC Program have the approval of the BC Principal.

The Team commends the school for the strong focus they have placed on English Language acquisition. All Grade 10s not only complete Grade 10 English (in the second semester), but are enrolled in a Grade 10 ESL class (Introduction to English 10) in their first semester. As well, the Grade 11's and 12's take Communications 11 and 12 in the first semester followed by Grade 11 and 12 English in the second semester. The Team would also like to commend the school for the strong focus they are placing on the daily use of English both within the classroom and in other areas of the school program. Students are reminded and encouraged to speak English in their interactions not only with the teacher but with each other. This encouragement is backed up with the school's English Stars program that rewards use of English in classrooms and around the School.

As an additional component of their English focus, CISGG has a daily silent reading period where teachers model reading and work with students to choose appropriate reading materials.



The Team acknowledges the work that all staff are doing to support students in their acquisition of English, and would encourage the School to build on this foundation by deploying the administrative team more systematically as instructional leaders. The use of the administrative team in this capacity – particularly but not exclusively in literacy development in English – could create additional learning opportunities for all students.

**Commendations:**

The School is commended for

- The strategic focus the school is placing on English Language Acquisition.
- The daily silent reading period

**4.2 The School meets the Course Credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in Section 4.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team confirms that the school meets the course credit requirements for equivalency, exemptions and BAA courses. The school offers a BAA ESL 10 class to all Grade 10 students. This is offered in addition to the Grade 10 English course. The school has received permission to exempt Physical Education 10, 11, and 12, which are delivered by the host school's Chinese certified teaching staff.

Students are receiving equivalency for Mandarin 10, 11, and 12.

**4.3 The School meets the Course Overview requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I (d) of the Agreement; namely, that all BC Program courses offered in the School meet or exceed the learning outcomes identified in the Educational Program Guides for each course, with a course overview for each course that includes content, teaching strategies, evaluation and assessment methods which are clearly linked to the BC learning outcomes.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

In visiting classrooms, the Team was impressed with exceptionally positive relationships and interactions between teachers and students that were observed.

The Team reviewed course overviews for each BC course presently offered by the school. Each course overview included content, timelines, planning for teaching strategies, assessment indicators and links to prescribed learning outcomes. The course overviews demonstrated alignment between long-term plans, short-term unit plans and daily lesson plans. In our visits to



classrooms there was confirmation of the course overviews being implemented and followed.

**Commendations:**

The School is commended for

- The positive interaction and relationship that exist between teachers and students
- The variety of instructional strategies used to facilitate student learning

**4.4 The School meets the Instructional Time Allotments requirements as outlined in Section 4.4 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools, including the requirements set out in sections 1.1 to 6, with the exception of s. 4(5)(b), of Ministerial Order 41/91, the Educational Standards Order, enacted under the Independent School Act.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team confirms that the School meets all the subject, instructional time and learning outcomes requirements for the BC Graduation Program, including Daily Physical Education. The School and teachers have made every effort to ensure that instructional strategies used support the learning needs of their English Language Learners.

The School has a Professional Development plan that provides assistance to teachers in their pedagogy.

**Commendation:** The School is commended for

- The focus that the school has placed on supporting struggling English Language Learners through the creation of the Foundations program.

**4.5 The School meets the Assessment Methods requirements as outlined in Section 4.5 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

Through classroom visits, observation of student work, review of course overviews and grades the Team is able to confirm that the CISGG staff are providing summative and formative assessment strategies to reflect individual student achievement. The Team would like to acknowledge the variety of assessment strategies that were observed during our time in the school. Students were observed demonstrating their learning through a variety of means such as games, creations of board games, observing and assessing the effectiveness of job interviewing techniques as well as tests and work assignments. The use of BC Performance Standards and individually developed outcome based rubrics were observed by the Team as an integral part of teachers' assessment of student achievement.



All students write Provincial Exams that are applicable to their grade and exams are appropriately supervised, invigilated and assessed by BC certified staff. In preparing for the writing of provincial exams, teachers make use of previous exams to model and assist students in understanding the process and potential design of exams they will need to write.

The Team would like to acknowledge the school for ensuring that the gap between the course and exam mark is, with the exception of English 12, below the 25% differential. As well the Team was made aware of a technical error that occurred last year in the submission of class marks to the Ministry. The present principal has submitted a revision of the data related to the differential between Provincial exam results and average course marks and is awaiting a revised report from the Ministry of Education. This new information shows a more positive, reduced gap between school and exam marks, especially in English 10 and Math 10.

Commendations: The School is commended for

- The results achieved with their initial graduating classes.

#### **4.6 The School meets the Learning Resources requirements as outlined in Section 4.6 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

Each campus of the school has a space provided for a library; in each location there is a very limited collection of non-fiction and fiction print resources suitable to support students` English Language acquisition. CISGG provides a period for daily silent reading, which is a strategy that the Team supports, to ensure that this time is spent wisely and in support of English Language acquisition there is a need for adequate resources.

The Team would strongly encourage the school to develop a long-term plan for acquisition of appropriate print materials to support students in their English learning.  
The Team confirms that the school has adequate texts available for student use in the BC Program. The school also has adequate technology available for both student and teacher use.

#### **4.7 The School meets the Student Progress Report requirements as outlined in Section 4.7 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team confirms that CISGG meets the Student Progress Report requirements and found that all subject areas are reported on with the exception of DPA.





Formal reports cards are sent out four times per year and include letter grades, percentages, attendance and comments in both English and Chinese.

Parent/Teacher conferences occur in conjunction with the mid-semester reporting period. In addition, parents have access to Engrade which provides them with the ability to regularly check on their child's progress.

Commendations:

The Team commends the School for

- The school's commitment to use Engrade which provides parents with the on-going opportunity to check their child's progress.

Requirement:

The School must include DPA on all future report cards, and provide proof of inclusion to the MoE and next year's inspection team.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT 5.0

### 5.1 The School meets the Parent / Student Handbook requirements as outlined in Section 5.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team noted the thoroughness of the Student and Parent Handbook, including sections on students' code of conduct, the School's educational philosophy and dispute resolution procedures. The handbook has been translated into Mandarin and is explained in detail at the first parents' meeting.

### 5.2 The School meets the Teacher Handbook requirements as outlined in Section 5.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Teacher Handbook is comprehensive, current and aligned with Section 5.2 of the Inspection Catalogue. The Teacher Handbook contains a detailed section on teacher evaluation.



**Appendix 5 The School meets the Distributed Learning requirements as outlined in Section 18 of The Agreement and Appendix 5 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met       Not Applicable

Comment:

The School does not offer DL courses.

## CONCLUSION

### Commendations

**The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Canadian International School Guangxi Gaojie for:**

- The School is commended for addressing the Grade 12 PE Equivalency issue so promptly. This ensures students receive their course credits in a timely manner.
- The School is commended for establishing a twinning relationship with the High School, a program affiliated with Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo.
- The School is commended for working well within three large and complex school facilities.
- The School is commended for hiring a Vice-Principal at each campus, and for ensuring there is adequate administrative support at each campus also.
- The focus the school is placing on English Language Acquisition.
- The daily silent reading period
- The positive interaction and relationship that exist between teachers and students.
- The variety of assessment strategies and assignments that were used in which students were able to demonstrate their learning.
- The focus that the school has placed on supporting struggling English Language Learners through the creation of the Foundations program.
- The results that the school has been able to achieve with their initial graduating classes.
- The school's commitment to use Engrade which provides parents with the on-going opportunity to check their child's progress.
- The implementation of a recycling program that teaches environmentalism and raises funds for a school for children with cerebral palsy (Silver Lining School).
- The twinning of CISGG with the Silver Lining School to raise awareness and foster compassion and empathy.



## Requirements

In order to meet the requirements of the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*, the Team requires that by January 31, 2016, the Owner/Operator provide the Director of International Education, responsible for BC Global Education Program - Offshore Schools, with a plan and timeline for proposed implementation of the following items:

- The School must include DPA on all future report cards, and provide proof of inclusion to the MoE and next year's inspection team.

## SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Director of International Education that, contingent on responding to the above requirements to the satisfaction of the Director of International Education, the British Columbia Program offered at Canadian International School Guangxi Gaojie be recognized as a British Columbia Certified Program.

