

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – YIWU

YIWU, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2016

INTRODUCTION

On November 14-15, 2016, a Certification Inspection was completed on Maple Leaf International School - Yiwu (MLIS-Y), Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, China, termed the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine whether the requirements for the British Columbia (B.C.) education program have been met, according to the *B.C. 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 *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Dr. Laurie Anderson (Chair) and Ms. Karine Veldhoen.

The School's B.C. Program has an enrolment of 123 students, in Grades 10 and 11. There are another 37 students in the Foundations and Bridging programs. The School is currently housed in a large campus shared with Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Yiwu as well as the Maple Leaf Chinese Elementary and Middle School. The entire School, which houses the B.C. Program, enrolls 968 students.

During their visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the Maple Leaf Educational System's Superintendent of Schools – B.C. Programs, the B.C. Principal, B.C. teachers and the Superintendent of the Chinese programs (also serving as Principal of the Chinese school in Yiwu).

The Owner/Operator, Maple Leaf Educational Systems (MLES) is responsible for the B.C. Program at the International and Foreign Nationals School, as well as the Chinese Elementary and Middle School.



The B.C. Program’s philosophy, objectives and special features are based on MLES’ emphasis on combining the best of western and eastern educational theory and practice; pursuing academic excellence; and, preparing students to be competent global citizens.

The Team would like to thank Maple Leaf International School – Yiwu 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 Not Applicable

Comment:

There were no requirements in the previous inspection report.

BUSINESS PLAN

The Owner/Operator has submitted a Business Plan to the B.C. Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the Program.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School has submitted a Business Plan to the B.C. Ministry of Education.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the clarity and detail in the Business Plan. More specifically, the School’s recruitment plan is comprehensive, incorporating middle school visits, online promotion, and networking with local community leaders. The School’s ELL Foundations and Bridging Programs serve as a pre-qualification opportunity to recruit students.

The student population grew from 72 Grade 10 students in the school first year (15-16) to 123 students in Grade 10 and 11 combined this year (16-17). The goal is to increase to at least 400 students within the next 2-3 years.



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

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

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School complies with the legal requirements of the Agreement.

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

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The B.C. Program is housed within a large campus with ample indoor and outdoor facilities. The School has a large gym, classrooms large enough for whole class or small group instruction, a growing library of fiction and non-fiction texts, a cafeteria and 600-seat theatre.

Plans are underway to move the School, and the Foreign Nationals School occupying the same facility, to its new site as determined by student population and agreed to by Maple Leaf senior management and Yiwu officials.

The Team was given a tour of the facility and can confirm that the impressive new campus has all of the amenities and capacity necessary to offer the growing student population both the Foreign Nationals School and B.C. International School.

Commendations:

The School has a well-equipped campus as well as plans to move to a newly renovated facility as enrolment grows.

The Principal is commended for his visionary leadership, his strong relationship with the Chinese programs, and his strategic planning.



ADMINISTRATION 3.0

3.2 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The Owner/Operator may appoint an individual to act as Offshore School Representative. 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 Superintendent of Global Education for MLES, Jim Beeke, serves as the Ministry-approved Offshore School Representative. Mr. Beeke is a very experienced administrator with extensive offshore school experience.

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 Principal meets the requirements of the Agreement. He has years of experience as a principal, both in large secondary schools in Canada, as well as in offshore schools in China.

Commendation:

The Team commends MLES for appointing a highly experienced, competent Principal to establish the School in Yiwu. The effective role the Principal plays in establishing a healthy school climate of collaboration and trust is clearly evident. Similarly, the skills and experience of the Principal are instrumental in fostering close, positive relationships with the Chinese headmaster and staff.

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 the requirements for administrative support as per Section 3.4 of the Inspection Catalogue. He has a full-time bilingual assistant and three other Chinese administrative staff with shared responsibilities.



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:

Student records are securely stored and complete with students' 1704 forms, English language assessment entry results, progress reports and signed consent forms.

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 B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 4.0

4.1 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation as outlined in Section 4.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School is exploring ways to implement the redesigned curriculum and obtain the necessary learning resources. This includes plans to use their non-instructional time during the year to examine the why, what and how of the redesigned B.C. curriculum. Teachers are discussing the big ideas and core competencies and how teaching in their respective content areas will look and feel different than current practice.

Commendation: The Team commends the teaching staff for their flexibility, adaptability and professionalism, especially given that the School is only in its second year and assignments and resources are yet to be fully established.



4.2 The School meets the requirements for English Language Assessment and Acquisition as outlined in Section 4.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School uses the well-developed MLES English language assessment test to measure student readiness for the B.C. Program. The School also has pre-qualification programs for students designed to support their English language readiness for Grade 10 in the B.C. Program. Once in the B.C. Program, teachers use the MLES teaching strategies to support students' English language development. There is also extensive use of formative and summative assessment tools to support students' proficiency in English.

4.3 The School meets the Course Credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in Section 4.3 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the course credit requirements in Section 4.3 of the Inspection Catalogue.

There are currently no BAA, challenge or equivalency credits offered.

When the School grows into a larger Gr 10-12 program, it is anticipated students will have a broader range of approved course options.

4.4 The School meets the course overview / course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I (d) of the Agreement; namely, that all B.C. Program courses offered in the School meet or exceed the Ministry learning outcomes / learning standards identified in the Educational Program Guides for each course.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School uses the MLES curriculum overviews that meet or exceed the Ministry standards as per the program guides. The teachers have initiated conversations about how best to transition from the current curriculum to the redesigned B.C. curriculum, while maintaining the necessary emphasis on English language acquisition and development.



4.5 The School meets the Instructional Time Allotments requirements as outlined in Section 4.5 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 School exceeds the instructional time outlined in Section 4.5 of the Inspection Catalogue.

The School uses the well-developed MLES English language formative and summative assessment tools.

In addition, teachers at the School meet regularly to explore ways to strengthen students' understanding and daily use of English.

Commendation:

The Team commends the Principal and teachers for their collaborative, focused approach to supporting student English language acquisition. This includes principal-led workshops on ELL teaching strategies.

4.6 The School meets the Assessment Methods requirements as outlined in Section 4.6 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Students wrote Mathematics 10 and Science 10 assessments in June of this year (2016). Results were above the provincial average in Math and within 5% of the provincial average in Science. Teachers use the ELL teaching strategies provided by MLES.

4.7 The School meets the Learning Resources requirements as outlined in Section 4.7 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School continues to build its Learning Resources. These include the ProQuest eLibrary program, the TumbleBookCloud Ebooks and an expanding inventory of novels at various levels of vocabulary and complexity.



Commendation:

The School is commended for having reading materials suitable for the students' range of English language level.

4.8 The School meets the Student Progress Report requirements as outlined in Section 4.8 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The student progress reports reflect Ministry standards, and address all the necessary elements (describing student learning, grades assigned, work habits, attendance, etc.).

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 School has a comprehensive, bilingual Parent/Student Handbook that covers all the necessary information (including the school mission, program goals, graduation requirements, timetable, student expectations, etc.).

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, drawing on MLES' experience is very comprehensive, clear and informative.



COURSE ACCREDITED VIA DISTRIBUTED LEARNING 6.0

6.1 The School meets the Distributed Learning requirements as outlined in Section 18 of The Agreement and Section 6 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Comment: The School does not offer Distributed Learning courses.		

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Maple Leaf International School-Yiwu for:

- The Principal’s leadership experience, calm, positive attitude and vision, so obviously instrumental in creating the conditions for developing the school ethos;
- The trusting, mutually respectful, caring relationships and rapport evident throughout the School: between teachers and students, between teachers and the Principal, and between faculty and administrative staff in the B.C. and Chinese programs;
- The rich diversity and multiculturalism on display within the school (e.g. flags of students’ countries of origin in the hallways)
- The attention and care paid to making the School’s common areas warm and inviting, with student creations (kites, lanterns, murals, etc.);
- The inclusion of Chinese teachers in the B.C. Program in-service activities, including weekly discussion and workshops on teaching and learning strategies;
- Embedding seven half days of professional development into the annual school calendar;
- The three preparatory, sequential English language development programs available to students who do not qualify for the B.C. Program (i.e. Foundations and Bridging programs);
- The establishment of professional growth plans for teachers;
- The initial steps taken to implement the B.C. curriculum, including in-service staff discussions, exploring the big ideas in lessons, displaying the redesigned B.C. curriculum framework around the school;
- The flexibility, professionalism and commitment of teachers to assume varied teaching assignments during the school’s infancy;



SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Director of International Education that the British Columbia Program offered at Maple Leaf International School – Yiwu be recognized as a British Columbia Certified Program.

