

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

SINO BRIGHT SCHOOL - XIAN

XIAN, SHAAN'XI PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 1, 2016

INTRODUCTION

On October 31, 2016 and November 1, 2016 a Certification Inspection was completed on Sino Bright School - Xian (SBS-X) Xian, Shaan'xi Province, People's Republic of 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 Daphne Churchill and Claudio Morelli (Chair).

The School's B.C. Program has an enrolment of 24 students, in Grades 10 and 11. At the present time, SBS-X also enrolls 7 Grade 12 students who are not part of the B.C. Program. SBS-X is housed within a Chinese public school, the Siyuan Middle School. The entire School, which houses the B.C. Program, enrolls over 850 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 School's Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), B.C. Principal, the host school's Chinese Principal, and B.C. teachers.

The Owner/Operator, Beijing Sino Bright Education Co. Ltd. is responsible for the B.C. Program. The Owner/Operator also operates two other B.C. Offshore Schools including Sino Bright School No.8 in Beijing and Sino Bright School in Kaifeng. Both of these schools offer the B.C. Graduation Program. In addition, Sino Bright Education also operates a B.C. Independent School located in Vancouver, B.C.



Sino Bright School – Xian’s philosophy, objectives and special features highlights the School’s efforts in preparing their students for success in, “Building honourable character and a broad range of knowledge and skills, which are the cornerstone of the school’s philosophy. Sino Bright School is focussed on providing quality education and developing students who can think independently, are committed to lifelong learning and ready to meet the challenges of 21st century education.”

The Team would like to thank Sino Bright School - Xian 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:

SBS-X received a follow-up inspection in April 2016 which did not have any requirements.

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 Team confirms that the School has completed and filed a Business Plan with the B.C. Ministry of Education.

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 Team noted that the School’s current certification from the People’s Republic of China as a privately run school issued by the Xian Municipal Bureau of Education expired on October 31, 2016. The Owner/Operator is aware of this issue and informed the Team that the certification renewal for the 2016-2017 is pending and will be sent to the Director of International Education



immediately upon receipt.

All other requirements in Section 2.1 of the Inspection Catalogue have been met.

Requirement:

The School is required to provide proof of the certification renewal from the Xian Municipal Bureau of Education to the Director of International Education.

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 Team is satisfied that facilities are in compliance and are suitable to support the B.C. Program. Documents relating to municipal codes for health and safety compliance were available, reviewed and found to be in order.

The B.C. Program at SBS-X is located on two floors of one wing of the Siyuan International High School building. Siyuan International High School enrolls over 850 students and includes dormitories, playing fields, a track and field facility and courts for basketball and badminton. A cafeteria and a school store are also available on the spacious campus. The School also is adjacent to a university that shares its services with Siyuan International School.

The B.C. Program has 6 classrooms each equipped with smart boards. There are also offices for the B.C. Program teaching staff, Chinese support staff and a Principal's office. A large reception area, and a library/computer room complete the B.C. Program facility. The facilities available are sufficient to meet the program needs while also allowing room for the future growth of the program as enrolment increases.

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 Owner/Operator has appointed a new Sino Bright representative to act as the Offshore School Representative. The Director of International Education approved the appointment of this individual for 2016-2017. The Team was appreciative of the support and assistance



provided by the Offshore School Representative during the School's inspection.

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 is an experienced teacher and administrator and is in his second year as Principal of SBS-X. He has established a positive and collaborative relationship with the B.C. Program staff as well as his Chinese support staff.

The supervision and evaluation of the B.C. program teaching staff has already commenced with both formal and informal observations being conducted.

The administrative responsibilities as outlined in Section 3.3 of the Inspection Catalogue are being fully met.

Commendation:

The Team appreciates the organization and preparation of the School Principal in providing the necessary files and documents to facilitate the inspection visit.

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 has a sufficient number of administrative support personnel in place to assist in the implementation of the B.C. Program. The administrative support staff includes a bilingual Chinese secretary who is the assistant to the B.C. Principal and a bilingual Chinese assistant who is the liaison between the B.C. Program and Chinese host school's administration.

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 files are securely stored in the Principal's office. The files maintained by the Principal contain all of the required elements as listed in the Inspection Catalogue. The student files are up to date including the Permanent Student Record cards.



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.

One teacher, providing English language learning support blocks, is currently undertaking additional course work to obtain a subject-restricted (English) certificate from the TRB. The Team notes that once this TRB certification is completed it will assist the School in providing more options for the students to obtain further course credits in the B.C. Program specifically for English language learners.

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 has initiated a professional development to plan for the implementation of the requirements of the redesigned curriculum. The first step in the process was the attendance of the Principal and one staff member at the Ministry's Professional Development workshop for Offshore Schools in the summer of 2016.

The School will be using their professional development time in the 2016-2017 school year to work towards aligning their current courses and their course overviews with the upcoming changes to enhance their teaching and assessment strategies.

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 Team was able to corroborate evidence that an English language assessment is done prior to student placement in the B.C. Program for grade 10. This test is completed under the direction of the B.C. Program Principal. The Team was able to establish that the school conducts



regular follow up assessments of the student's language acquisition each term. This information is tracked and recorded.

Additional ELL support blocks are also provided to support student ELL skill development. This course is currently offered after school and is taught by a non-certified B.C. teacher. Classroom observations indicated that classroom teachers were providing English language development support to the students to support their English language proficiency.

The Team noted that during unstructured times in the classroom, or when partner/peer work was being done, that the majority of the students spoke Chinese unless prompted by the teacher to communicate 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 Team confirms that the School is offering a B.C. Program at Grade 10 and 11 that will lead students to graduation in Grade 12. The School maintains records that demonstrate successful course completion and these are recorded in the student files.

The only exempted course for which students are granted credit is Physical Education 10 which is delivered by a certified Chinese teacher. All required documentation including exemption letters are in place.

4.4 The School meets the Course Overview 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 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 B.C. learning outcomes.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Overviews for the courses being taught in the first semester included content, teaching strategies, evaluation and assessment and were linked to the current B.C. Grade 10 and 11 learning outcomes. Classroom observations, teachers' short term and daily plans together with examples of students' work, confirmed that these outlines are being followed.



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 Team confirmed that the School's timetable, as described in the Inspection Catalogue, provides almost 6 hours of teacher contact time each day. However, after visiting classrooms the Team observed that some elements of the School's timetable should not have been calculated as Instructional Time. The School still meets the instructional time allotments as outlined in Section 4.5 of the Inspection Catalogue however, the Team noted that some modifications of the timetable should be made to maximize the time allocated in the timetable, particularly in the Silent Reading and English Walk scheduled times.

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:

The classroom visits and a review of the course overviews, lesson plans and the assessment records being kept by teachers indicate that assessment is being conducted and recorded with the majority being summative assessment. The Team confirmed a variety in assessment strategies was evident in the planning documents, however the majority focused on summative examples.

Teachers are using the program En Grade to track student grades and progress.

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 Team noted that the School has sufficient textbooks as well as workbooks for student that are utilized extensively in classroom instruction and for homework. The Team also observed that teachers have access to online resources.

The Team noted that the library now houses a class set of computers which are accessible to teachers for use by their students to do research, writing and video presentations.



The Team noted that the school is not currently using e-books or digital books, magazines, and newspapers which would help to bolster their small collection of library resources and allow the students access to resources at varying reading ability levels and interests.

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:

Teachers keep classroom records and marks to track student learning. Formal report cards are sent home to parents four times a year. These formal reports include a letter grade and comments that are translated into Chinese. Additionally, there are opportunities for parents to attend parent/teacher evenings once each semester. Teachers provide the parents weekly updates on their child's progress by email. These updates are also bilingual and show summative information for tests and quizzes as well attendance and homework completion.

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 Parent/Student handbook contains all the required policies relating to student assessment, student admissions, a student discipline policy and a policy for parental appeals and dispute resolution processes.

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 has been updated for the 2016-2017 school year and all requirements as outlined in Section 5.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools are being met.



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: SBS-X does not offer any credits through Distributed Learning courses.		

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Sino Bright School - Xian for:

- The development of a caring, supportive and committed administration and teaching staff that cares for the development of the SBS-X students.
- The thorough and complete preparation of documents and files by the Principal and administrative support team that assisted the Team in completing its work.

Requirements

In order to meet the requirements of the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*, the Team requires that by February 15, 2017, the Owner/Operator provide the Director of International Education, responsible for B.C. Global Education Program - Offshore Schools, with a plan and timeline for proposed implementation of the following items:

- To obtain a renewed certificate of approval from the Xian Municipal Bureau of Education indicating that SBS-X has authorization to operate as a private school for the 2016-2017 school year.

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 Sino Bright School - Xian be recognized as a British Columbia Certified Program.

