

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

SINO CANADA HIGH SCHOOL

SUZHOU, JIANGSU PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

DECEMBER 12-14, 2022

INTRODUCTION

On December 12 to 14, 2022, a virtual certification inspection was completed on Sino Canada High School in Suzhou, Jiangsu, People's Republic of China, referred to as the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine if the requirements for the British Columbia (BC) education program have been met, according to the *BC Offshore School Program Certification Agreement* (the Agreement). The inspection team (the Team), appointed by the Executive Director of the Independent Schools and International Education Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Education and Child Care (the Ministry) in accordance with the Agreement, consisted of Greg Corry and Dr Laurie Anderson, who served as Chair for this virtual inspection.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 360 students, in grades 10-12. The BC program shares a large campus with a Chinese K-12 school, a secondary A-Levels program and a Japanese language school. The entire school, which houses the BC program, enrolls 2, 200 students.

During the visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the Agreement and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's General Manager, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal and Vice-Principal, BC teachers, academic advisors, students, office personnel and Principal of the Chinese school..

The Owner/Operator, Shanghai Fengying Education Technology Co. Inc., is responsible for the BC program.

The BC program's primary mission is to provide students with a holistic education that prepares students for success in a rapidly evolving world. The School values academic achievement, an appreciation of learning for its own sake, and a commitment to care and respect for self, others and the environment.



The Team would like to thank Sino Canada High School for its cooperation and preparedness for the virtual inspection.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Comment: The School had no requirements from the previous report.			

BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
Comment: The Owner/Operator, Shanghai Fengying Education Technology Co Ltd., has submitted a comprehensive business plan outlining the viability of the program. As with most jurisdictions in China, the Suzhou/Shanghai region has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has slowed down the School's plans for growth, however, the strategic recruitment of students leaving the former BC programs at Maple Leaf schools is an encouraging development.		
Commendation: The School is commended for recruiting students from across China during the challenging COVID-19 period.		



INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the Agreement.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the Owner/Operator meets all requirements as per the Agreement.

2.03 The Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the School, as outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirmed that the Owner/Operator has written government approval to operate the School.

2.04-2.05 The School meets building inspection/safety, food preparation/cafeteria and fire safety codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC program.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the School meets all standards and regulations necessary to support the BC program.

The School is located on an expansive piece of property of approximately 230 acres, and houses 2,200 students in total that includes the BC school, the main k-12 Chinese school, an A-levels school and a Japanese school.

The School has documented procedures for fire drills, lockdowns and emergency evacuation of staff and students. Additional safety measures have been implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.



2.06 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The Owner/Operator must appoint an individual to act as an OSR. This individual must be confirmed by the Province and must meet all the requirements set out in section 14 of the Agreement.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the Offshore School Representative (OSR) is confirmed by the Province and meets all necessary standards.

Commendation:

The School is commended for hiring an experienced OSR with school leadership experience in BC previously in the School, and in another offshore school.

2.07 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the Principal meets the requirements as per the Annual Report. The Principal attended the School as a student, pursued university studies and a career in North America before returning to the School, initially as a teacher, then entered school administration two years ago. The Principal is fluently bilingual and very familiar with local cultural norms and values.

Commendation:

The School is commended for hiring an extremely committed, dedicated principal, a graduate of the School returning initially as a teacher and now serves as the principal.

2.08 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Agreement. The Team met with the two administrative assistants and the Administrator of IT and Finance. The School has a part-time Vice-Principal who also teaches, and two bilingual program advisors. The School records are secure and well maintained.



2.09 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.09 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Teams confirms that the student records are complete, secure and accessible digitally via PowerSchool.

2.10-2.18 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.10-2.18 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that all Authorized Persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

There are three teachers with valid, current Letters of Exemption (LOE) and one teacher with an LOE application in process. The teacher without an LOE will not assume a teaching role until the LOE is approved.

Commendation:

The School and the Offshore School Representative (OSR) are commended for hiring qualified teachers during an extremely challenging time to recruit BC program teachers in China.

2.19 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.19 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the School is implementing the BC curriculum. This was determined by reviewing teacher planning materials and through interviews directly with staff. Teachers use templates that include essential curricular elements, including Core Competencies, First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) and English language acquisition strategies. The Team was encouraged by the consistently positive, collaborative relationships among the teaching staff and with students, the demonstrable dedication to supporting student learning and development, and the enthusiasm and respect students exhibited for their teachers.



Commendation:

The School is commended for the dedication, professionalism and collaborative relationships among the teaching staff.

The School is commended for the holistic way they engage students, including creative, challenging assignments, leadership opportunities for students (e.g., school videos, clubs) and a range of extra-curricular activities.

2.20 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 2.20 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the School has a formal English language assessment entry test with both written and spoken components, with final approval by the Principal. The Team also confirms that the teachers use a variety of strategies to support language acquisition through the grades.

Commendation:

The Team commends the staff and leadership at the School for ensuring student learning continued during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

2.21(a-e) The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 2.21 (a-e) of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School offers Psychology 12 as an approved Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) course. The Team confirmed that the course framework reflects the required Ministry template.

Five courses are exempted by the Ministry for delivery by locally certified teachers: Mandarin 11 and 12; Physical Health Education 10, and Art 10 and 11.



2.21(f-g) The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. € of the Agreement; namely, that all BC program courses offered in the School meet or exceed Ministry learning outcomes/learning standards identified in the educational program guides for each course.

☒ Requirement Met

☐ Requirement Partially Met

☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the School meets the requirements as per course overview/course planning expectations in the Agreement. The School uses the Atlas Rubicon platform for course and lesson planning. The Team reviewed curriculum documents and discussed them with the teaching staff. The documents confirmed that the Big Ideas, Core Competencies and various forms of assessment are in place.

2.22 The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in section 2.22 of the Annual Report for offshore schools, including the requirements set out in sections 1.1 to 6, with the exception of s. 4(5)(b), 4 (6), 5 (8)(a) and (d) and s. 5.3 of Ministerial Order 41/91, the Educational Standards Order, enacted under the Independent School Act.

☒ Requirement Met

☐ Requirement Partially Met

☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School confirmed that the School's instructional time allotment exceeds the minimal requirement as per the Agreement (1,002 hours versus 850 hours).



2.23 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School uses a suite of assessment practises consistent with BC program requirements. Both formative and summative assessment methods are used, and tied closely to what is taught. The Team learned that the students are afforded multiple ways to demonstrate their learning, including conventional examinations, PowerPoint presentations, art work, student-made videos, podcasts and journal entries. The School's invigilation procedures meets Ministry of Education and Child Care requirements.

Commendation:

The School is commended for making student assessment a priority in their professional development.

2.24 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms the learning resources meet the requirements to effectively deliver the BC program, both in variety and quantity. The School's library has adopted a "learning commons" approach, with students receiving an initial orientation followed by regular encouragement to access the library resources. Each classroom is equipped with technology suitable for student presentations and research.

The School's internet bandwidth, at 500Mbps, does not provide reliable, adequate Wi-Fi access, presenting a challenge for teacher planning and student engagement.

2.25 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the student progress report requirements are met. The School has four formal student progress reports, and parent-teacher-student conferences are regularly scheduled (with translation services from the School's administrative staff). Parents can access grade and attendance data via the PowerSchool online portal.



2.26 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the parent/student handbook meets the requirements of the agreement. The handbook is written in both English and Chinese.

2.27 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the teacher handbook meets the requirements outlined in the Agreement.

2.28 The School meets the Online Learning requirements (formerly Distributed Learning) as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.28 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met ☐ Not Applicable

Comment:

The School offers one Online Learning course—Pre-Calculus 12 – using the approved service provider, Global Education – School District 73 Business Company.

2.29 The School meets the requirements for offering Remote Instruction under the BC Offshore School Remote Instruction Policy and as outlined in section 2.29 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met ☒ Not Applicable

Comment:

The School does not currently offer Remote Instruction.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative (OSR) of Sino Canada High School for:

- recruiting students from across China during the challenging COVID-19 period.
- hiring an experienced OSR with school leadership experience both in BC and in the BC Offshore School Program.
- hiring an extremely committed and dedicated principal, a graduate of the School returning initially as a teacher and now serves as the Principal.
- cultivating professional and collaborative relationships among the teaching staff.
- ensuring student learning continued during the COVID-19 lockdowns.
- making student assessment a priority in teacher professional development.
- The holistic way they engage students, including creative, challenging assignments, leadership opportunities for students (e.g., school videos) and a range of extra-curricular activities.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of the Independent Schools and International Education Branch that the British Columbia education program offered at Sino Canada High School *continues* to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

