

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF FOREIGN NATIONALS SCHOOL - DALIAN

DALIAN, LIAONING PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

INTRODUCTION

On November 15, a certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Dalian (MLFNS-D) in Dalian, Liaoning Province, People’s Republic of China, referred to as 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 Executive Director of International Education and Independent Schools, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Sophia Malczewska and Dr. Laurie Anderson (Chair).

The School’s B.C. program has an enrolment of 130 students, grades K-9, in two stand-alone campuses, one in downtown Dalian (K-4) and one in nearby Kai Fa Que (K-9)

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 B.C. principal, B.C. teachers, and the superintendent of schools.

The owner/operator, China Maple Leaf Educational System (CMLES), is responsible for the B.C. program and owns and operates a number of schools across China, a high school in Kamloops, B.C., and a secondary school about to open in Western Australia.

The B.C. program’s philosophy, objectives and special features include:

- An educational philosophy assumes that every child has a strong desire to learn and to develop an understanding of the world, to share their knowledge, and to communicate their understanding, thoughts, and feelings through wide-ranging personal expression.
- An international education that emphasizes academic excellence within a supportive



community that respects and promotes cultural norms and traditions for both Chinese and international students.

- An appreciation for the diversity of people and cultures, provides an optimal environment for learning and teaching, and offers a globally respected curriculum that inspires in its students the spirit and ideals of global citizenship.

The Team would like to thank Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School - Dalian for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

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| The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| <p>Comment: The School had no requirements from the previous inspection. Several of the suggestions made previously have been addressed.</p> |

BUSINESS PLAN

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| The owner/operator has submitted a business plan to the B.C. Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met |
| <p>Comment: The School has a very comprehensive business plan that includes an action plan for long term sustainability.</p> |
| <p>Commendation: The School is commended for developing an extensive recruitment plan ensuring the School's long-term sustainability.</p> |



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 owner/operator meets all requirements set forth in 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 School has all its necessary documents on hand regarding local regulations, including building code, safety and evacuation procedures. Both school facilities are well maintained and suitable for the BC program. The School has a detailed school closure policy in place.

ADMINISTRATION 3.0

3.1 Offshore school representative (OSR) - The owner/operator must 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:

MLFNS-D is supported by a highly qualified person in the role of offshore School representative (OSR). CMLES has also appointed both a superintendent and an assistant superintendent to provide supervision and support for the schools offering the B.C. program.



3.2 The principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 3.2 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The principal meets the requirements outlined in the Agreement. This is the principal's fourth year at the School, having moved it from its single location to two different campuses. The principal is commended for the calm, experienced and enthusiastic leadership he provides.

3.3 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 3.3 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the outlined requirements. There is a head teacher on each campus, an ELL coordinator, and several bilingual administrative personnel on each campus.

3.4 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 3.4 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the student record requirements. The Team reviewed 30% of the student files on both campuses and all were complete, accessible and secure. The School uses the updated student and teacher consent form.

The School is commended for maintaining well organized, accessible and secure student records.

3.5 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in section 3.5 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 outlined in section 4.1 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

MLFNS-D is in its third year of the new K-9 curriculum implementation. The Team visited all of the classrooms (Kindergarten to grade 9) and observed evidence of curricular planning and pedagogical approaches that reflect the new curriculum. For example, the Team observed a school-wide focus on inquiry and project-based learning, intentional core competency development and classroom reflection on the First People's Principles of Learning. A large number of professional development activities around the new curriculum were provided throughout the 2017/18 school year. System-wide and school-based sessions were provided before the start of the new school year, which included a focus on assessment practises. Later this month the School will have two professional development sessions; one on each campus. On the Kai Fa Qui campus, the staff will be preparing to implement a school wide, inquiry-based project that will touch on all parts of the curriculum.

On the Dalian campus, staff will be working on enhancements to the educational program in order to better meet the particular needs of their students. Professional development planning is ongoing and includes a number of additional sessions throughout the 2018-19 school year.

Commendation:

The School is commended for its implementation of the new curriculum and for differentiating and personalizing learning for their students.

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:

MLFNS-D has a pre-Kindergarten program that prepares students to enter the B.C. K-9 program. Applicants (children and their parents) for Kindergarten to grade 3 participate in an oral interview with the principal, who determines eligibility. Students entering the School after grade 3 complete a 45-minute English assessment to determine program eligibility and placement, which consists of a reading comprehension test, oral reading assessment, an open-ended writing exercise and an interview. B.C. ELL standards are used to determine



placement and ELL supports. The principal oversees the assessment and makes the final decision regarding entry into the B.C. program. The School employs a suite of strategies and assessment tools to help improve students' English language proficiency.

Notable initiatives include: hiring an English language system coordinator (CMLES) to support each campus; additional academic supports to students whose level of proficiency is a barrier to achieving success in the regular classroom (ELL classroom support and "pull outs"); running records; and bi-annual school-wide reading and writing formative assessments. There is a particular focus on reading, and the school uses a "Daily Five" literacy program, which is supported by a large collection of leveled readers and teacher resources. This program allows teachers to differentiate instruction and to benchmark students' reading proficiency and is being used in almost every classroom

Commendation:

The School is commended for the many ways it supports and promotes English language acquisition and development.

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 Not Applicable

Comment:

MLFNS-D is a K-9 school, so this section is not applicable.

4.4 The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. (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 Team reviewed all of the curricular overviews, unit plans and sample assessments that teachers made readily available in their classrooms. The Team confirms that the documentation prepared by teachers demonstrates compliance with the new curriculum. Teacher binders also provided evidence of assessment being linked to the B.C. learning standards and that teachers are facilitating student self-assessment of core competencies.



4.5 The School meets the instructional time allotment 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), 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 Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as articulated in the Agreement.

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:

Teachers support student learning by employing an array of assessment methods, and document student learning in a variety of ways, including portfolios, observations and teacher-student conferencing. Assessment at MLFNS-D is an integral part of the planning process. Benchmarking assessment is a focus at MLFNS-D. The following tools are used by teachers in order to ensure strong alignment in their assessments with Provincial standards and to support teaching and learning: ELL standards, B.C. performance standards, reading benchmarks (Daily Five Program) and by having students in grades 4 and 7 participate in Foundational Skills Assessment (FSAs).

Commendation:

The School is commended for its significant efforts to scaffold learning through detailed assessment information, while also ensuring student assessment aligns with provincial standards.

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:

MLFNS-D has a well-resourced library with over 3,700 fiction and non-fiction English books. The School also holds three book fairs per year for students and staff. All classes have one or two library blocks each week. The leveled readers that the School acquired for the Daily Five program represent a significant investment. The two campuses share Daily Five texts for the



lower levels (K-5). The School also has a good collection of graded texts for English language learners.

The School has a subscription to the online reading program, Reading A-Z. At Grades 4-9, teachers continue to add to their classroom collections by applying their scholastic book points to classroom libraries. For the last two years, MLFNS-D has been purchasing updated textbooks that align with the new curriculum. Thus far, Science and Social Studies have benefited from this update.

Classrooms are outfitted with an LCD projector and a computer with Internet access, which the Team observed teachers using to good effect. All of the classrooms were clean and attractive and were well-stocked with resources that were developmentally appropriate.

The School has a dedicated learning resource teacher who coordinates the Daily Five program, which differentiates reading instruction for MLFNS-D students. This teacher also coordinates additional supports for students on both campuses.

There is a computer lab on the Kai Fa Qui campus as well as computers for student use in the classrooms, although teachers noted that resource retrieval is reduced because of the dated operating systems in the computers.

Commendation:

The School is commended for its commitment to meeting the needs of diverse learners at the school.

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 School meets the requirements for student reporting. The School holds student-led conferences in April each year and supplements the formal reporting periods with the ongoing use of WeChat, student planners and Class Dojo.



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 very thorough bilingual student and parent handbook.

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 School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in the Agreement.

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.**

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met 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 Foreign Nationals School - Dalian for:

- Developing an extensive recruitment plan to ensure the School's long-term sustainability;
- Its implementation of the new curriculum and for differentiating and personalizing learning for their students;
- The many ways it supports and promotes English language acquisition and development;
- Scaffolding student learning through detailed assessment practises aligned with provincial standards;
- Its commitment to meeting the needs of diverse learners at the School.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of International Education and Independent Schools that the British Columbia education program offered at Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School - Dalian continue to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

