

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

SINO BRIGHT SCHOOL NO. 8

BEIJING

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

OCTOBER 29-30, 2020

INTRODUCTION

On October 29-30, 2020, an online certification inspection was completed on Sino Bright School No. 8 (SBS8) in Beijing, 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 (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 Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Doug Lauson (Chair) and Pieter Langstraat.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 70 students, in grades 10-12 (Source: Annual Report, September 30, 2020). The BC program is housed within Beijing No.8 High School Yihai Campus International Department that is located in a gated community of approximately 40,000 residents. The International Department was established in 2007, nine years after the establishment of the host school, Beijing No. 8 Middle School Yihai campus. The International Department, which houses the BC program, enrolls 166 students.

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 School Representative (OSR), Chinese International School/Middle School Principal, BC Principal, BC teachers and Chinese support staff.

The Owner/Operator, Ms. YuFang Sun is responsible for the BC program. Her company, Beijing Sino Bright Education Co. Ltd., also operates a group 4 independent school in Vancouver, BC. In addition, Sino Bright No. 8 School has a twinning relationship with a public school district on



the Sunshine Coast in British Columbia.

The BC program's philosophy, objectives and special features include providing its students with a true BC/Canadian education experience. To this end, the School offers students the opportunities to participate in a variety of activities including a winter or summer trip to their twinned BC school district, or even to transfer to their own group 4 independent school in Vancouver.

In addition, the School has a schoolwide focus of identifying students who are academically 'at risk' and providing additional supports for the students to help their success. Although the BC program is only grades 10 - 12, the school is intimately involved in the local Chinese middle school to help ensure that its entering grade 10 students have had a good education in the English language.

The Team would like to thank Sino Bright No. 8 School for its hospitality, cooperation, and preparedness for the inspection visit.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The 2019/20 certification inspection report did not contain any requirements. However, the School did follow up on some of the suggestions, but these plans were put on hold due the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>			

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
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The School submitted a detailed business plan in its Annual Report that covered a number of items including future plans for school growth, marketing to a specific target group of families, and continuing/strengthening the twinning agreement with Powell River School District (SD #47). The business plan reported on the successful transition on last year's graduates to post secondary institutions in Canada (34 graduates accepted), and the United Kingdom (1), Australia (1), and the United States (2).</p>		



Examination of the enrolment trends over the last five years indicates that the School enrolment peaked in 2018/19 with declines over the last two years. The current decline has been attributed to the coronavirus pandemic and political tensions, causing families to reassess where they are choosing to have their children educated. However, the business plan projects and increased enrolment over the next four years to a greater number than the 2018/19 peak of 131.

INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

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

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator has operated the School since its opening in 2005 as one of the first schools in the BC offshore schools program. Her qualifications and experience in operating the School enables her to meet all the requirements in all the sections and schedules of the Agreement as well as section 2.02 of the inspection catalogue.

Commendation:

The Owner/Operator's experience and support of the School enables it to provide a quality education program to its students. The long-term relationship that the Owner/Operator has with the Principal of the Chinese national middle school is one of mutual respect and support and therefore it contributes to the success of the BC program.

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

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The School provided the Team with a translated copy of the business license issued by the Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce for Beijing Sino Bright Education Co. Ltd. to operate. The license was issued on May 31, 2010 and is valid to May 30, 2030. In addition, the School provided a translated copy from the Beijing Fengtai Civil Administration Bureau giving the Beijing Fengtai District Education Committee permission to operate the junior middle school and high school (the BC program is operated under the high school) to January 8, 2024.



The School does not possess a 'letter of no objection' from the Beijing Fengtai District Education Committee. The Team was informed that the authority does not issue such letters as it had already approved the original opening of the School under the Beijing No. 8 High School Yihai Campus International Department.

Requirement:

In lieu of the 'Letter of No objection', the School is required to forward to Ministry the original Letter of Approval that was granted by the local authority when the school was permitted to open in Beijing No. 8 Middle School.

2.04-2.05 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
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The School provided the Team with a translated copy of the Cutover and Acceptance Report (August 30, 2018) issued by the Zhongxiang Fire Projection Co. Ltd. that accepts the fire control systems in phases II, III and IV in the Yihai community.

In addition, the Team examined the updated 2020/21 Fire Drill Evacuation Plan of the School and its Emergency Plan for Natural Disasters. The School provided the Team with a bilingual copy of the emergency plan for Epidemic Prevention and Control of Beijing No. 8 High School Yihai Campus International Department.

The School has access to on-site medical services of the host school who provide two full-time nurses, the doctor on call, and ambulance service if needed.

The Team examined the food business license issued by the Beijing Fengtai District Food and Medical Products giving permission to Beijing No. 8 Middle School Yihai campus to operate a cafeteria. The license expires on January 12, 2021.

The School is located in a large single building of six stories, which is located in the gated walled community of Yihai. The building contains 40 classrooms in addition to the library, three computer labs, for science rooms, dance studio, music room, multi-purpose room, cafeteria, and auditorium. It also has a large cemented outdoor area that can be used for basketball and track. Photographs of the facility provided to the Team indicate a spacious building with appropriate facilities for the BC program.



Commendation:

The School looks well maintained in the photographs and has plenty of space for accommodating an increased enrollment and future expansion.

2.06 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
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The Offshore School Representative (OSR) is an experienced educator who serves in the OSR role for several BC offshore schools. She taught and administered in independent schools for many years prior to her appointment at the BC Ministry of Education. In her role as the Inspector of Independent schools for the Province of British Columbia she gained expertise in the BC Global Education Program, developing and spearheading many of the programs and initiatives in different countries. The OSR is a BC-certified educator now providing consulting services to the School.

The Team examined the OSR's job description and confirms that her responsibilities meet the requirements of Section 14 of the Agreement.

Commendation:

The Owner/Operator and the OSR work collaboratively to ensure that the school meets the requirements of the BC Ministry of Education and those of the Agreement. This collaboration results in a smooth-running offshore enterprise.

2.07 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

This is the fourth year that the Principal has been the chief administrator at Sino Bright No. 8 School. He also holds the position of Assistant Superintendent. The Principal is a certified BC educator who has had many years of administration and teaching experience in the BC public school system. Prior to coming to Sino Bright No. 8 School in 2016, he was with the Burnaby School District as a Principal, District Principal and Summer School Principal. In addition to his administration and teaching experience, the Principal has been involved in many instructional leadership and organizational leadership committees and organizations.



The Team examined the Principal's job description and his contract, and it confirms that he meets the requirements of section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the Principal has not been able to be physically present at the School for several months, returning to China in late September, after school had begun. However, while he was stranded in Canada, he completed his administration duties online and kept in constant contact with the School to ensure that students and teachers were well supported as online instruction replaced in-class instruction.

Commendation:

The Principal is to be commended for going beyond the call of duty in ensuring that his teachers and the students under his care were appropriately supported during the pandemic. Due to the time difference between Canada and China, the Principal was working literally day and night to ensure that the school continued smoothly in his physical absence.

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

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

As is typical in a BC offshore school that is associated with a host Chinese school, the Principal is supported by a number of local Chinese nationals who act in various capacities supporting the administrative function of the school. One of the most invaluable assistants is in charge of the school records and also fulfils the function of academic advisor to the students. The Team agrees that the Principal receives appropriate support to operate the School.

Commendation:

The successful placements of the graduate students from last year can be largely attributed to the guidance and assistance they received from the academic advisor whom the Team interviewed. The Team recognizes the expertise, knowledge, and dedication of the academic visor in not only providing good counselling, but also for the technological expertise in operating the school administration software.



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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team examined sample student record files from each of the three grades. It confirms that the items included meet the requirements of section 2.09 of the inspection catalogue with the exception that the parent/guardian consent forms contained in the files were not updated to the 2020-21 versions. Furthermore, the files did not contain the required student consent forms.

Requirement:

The School is required to replace the out of date parent/guardian consent forms with the updated signed 2020/21 versions. The School is also required to insert a signed current 2020/21 student consent form in each student's file.

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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Unfortunately, the enrolment of the School declined this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore the teaching staff was reduced from seven to four teachers, and the Principal. The Team examined the teaching credentials of the teaching staff and found them to be in order. **The Team confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education.**

The School employs one locally certified teacher who holds a valid Chinese teaching certificate issued by the Beijing Municipal Education Commission (June 9, 2008). The School provided evidence to the Team that the locally certified teacher has completed a criminal record check.

The School does not employ any teacher assistants.



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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team reviewed annual course plans, sample unit plans and engaged in conversations with teachers and the principal. There is clear evidence of the revised curriculum being implemented in grades 10 – 12. Documents included Big Ideas, curricular competencies, and appropriate content.

Ongoing professional development is provided by the principal at bi-weekly staff meetings. The most recent professional development session focussed on the use of rubrics for assessment.

Teachers indicated that integrating the First Peoples Principles of Learning in their subject areas is challenging and continues to be an area of development. The interviews with teachers revealed that there is varying understanding of the First Peoples Principles of Learning ranging from rudimentary to sophisticated understanding.

Most annual course plans utilize a common planning template that ensures that teachers include Big Ideas and curricular competencies in their planning. Teachers also described how they incorporate these elements of the new curriculum in their daily lessons.

Nevertheless, there is a range of understanding of the revised curriculum. In interviews with the teachers it was clear that some teachers have a basic understanding of implementation of Big Ideas and curricular competencies while others have fully implemented these elements of the new curriculum.

Commendation:

The Principal and staff are to be commended for their commitment to fully implementing the new curriculum.

The Principal and staff are to be commended for incorporating ongoing professional development to deepen their understanding of the new curriculum.

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



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>Formal English proficiency assessments are administered in the fall and spring of grades 7, 8, 9 and 10. The assessment that occurs at the end of the grade 9 year is used to establish a benchmark for students as they enter the high school program. This assessment provides both an overview of student language proficiency at a school-wide level and allows teachers to personalize supports for students. In addition, teachers conduct ongoing assessments throughout the year to gauge student progress in English language acquisition.</p> <p>In the 2020/2021 school year students in grades 10 and 11 will be required to write the British Columbia grade 12 Graduation Literacy Assessment.</p>		
<p>Commendation:</p> <p>The School is to be commended for its commitment to providing both formal and ongoing English language assessments for students.</p> <p>The School is to be commended for conducting assessments throughout the year and for providing ongoing support for students who are struggling with English language acquisition.</p>		

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 inspection catalogue for offshore schools.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The School offers one course that has Ministry of Education approval. The course, PHE 10, is taught by a locally certified teacher.</p> <p>The School does not offer BAA courses.</p>		

2.21(f-g) The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. (e) of the Agreement; namely, that all BC program courses offered in
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the School meet or exceed the 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 examined course curricular and unit planning documents for all courses taught at the School. A common template is used to ensure that all the elements of the revised curriculum are incorporated in course planning.

Interviews with the teachers indicated that they are using a range of instructional strategies. These include direct instruction, student group work, and individual student work. Due to the small class sizes in the current school year teachers are able to devote substantial time for individual instruction and support for students.

Of note was the incorporation of student electronic devices in daily instruction. All students are expected to have a laptop or iPad. Students use these devices for research and project work.

Commendation:

The School is to be commended for its commitment to developing and using common planning templates that focus on elements of the revised curriculum.

2.22 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 Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School provides 6 hours of instruction per day for 179 days per year for a total of 1074 hours of instruction annually. This exceeds the Ministry of Education requirement of 850 hours of instruction.

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



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Team examined course planning documents, unit plans and engaged teachers in interviews regarding assessment practises.</p> <p>Teachers use both formative and summative assessment techniques. Course documents and teacher input reflect a variety of assessment methods. These include, but are not limited to, project work, student portfolios, student self-reflections, peer assessment, student self-assessments, quizzes, and formal examinations.</p> <p>The School utilizes student achievement results to identify students “at risk”. These students are provided with additional supports and are monitored on an on-going basis to ensure that progress is being made.</p> <p>After review of the submitted course documentation, the Team observed that several courses assign 10% of a student’s grade to homework, which is not in keeping with the recommended assessment practises of the revised curriculum. While the Principal and teachers expressed that providing a grade for homework held students accountable, the Team encourages the staff to reconsider this practise.</p>		

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>Over the past year the School has improved student work areas in the library. The readers’ center has been enlarged. The library also has a 30-station computer lab which is networked and has internet access. There are two additional computer labs available for instruction.</p> <p>All classrooms have Wi-Fi connectivity and an LCD projector. The School provides teachers with laptop computers for instructional and administrative purposes.</p> <p>As noted in 2.21(f-g) students are expected to have a laptop or iPad. These devices are used to connect to the school Wi-Fi system to enhance student learning in the classroom.</p>		
<p>Commendation:</p> <p>The School is to be commended for its investment in the library and technology.</p>		



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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School's student progress report meets the Ministry of Education requirements. Formal report cards are issued four times per year. Parent/teacher conferences are held twice a year.

In addition, the School uses the *ThinkWave* electronic reporting platform which allows parents and students to track academic progress.

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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team examined the 2020/2021 student and parent handbook. The handbook is comprehensive and visually appealing. The handbook is written in both English and Chinese.

The handbook covers all of the essential information a family would need to know including the daily schedule, academic and general policies, and grading information. Of note is the section devoted to British Columbia post-secondary institutions.

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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team examined the 2020/2021 staff handbook. The 39-page document informs staff members of their roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities.

The handbook is reviewed with all staff at the beginning of the school year.

2.28 The School meets the distributed learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.28 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.



<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 does not offer distributed learning courses to its students.			

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff, and Offshore School Representative of Sino Bright School No. 8 for:

- continuing to provide onsite teaching services through the COVID-19 pandemic with little disruption to the daily educational program.
- having a specific school-wide focus to provide extra learning supports to students identified as being academically 'at risk'.
- providing students with the opportunity to experience a typical BC/Canadian education at Sino Bright No. 8 and through the twinning relationship with a BC public school district.
- providing excellent academic counselling support for the grade 12 students that resulted in successfully placing 80% of last year's graduating class in post-secondary institutions across the world.
- having annual planning overview planning documents that are consistent through the various courses, validating the implementation of the new curriculum.
- consistent and encouraging leadership of the Principal over the last four years, particularly this year when he was isolated from the campus until well into September due to the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions.



Requirements

In order to meet the requirements of the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*, the Team requires that by January 31, 2021, the Owner/Operator provide the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, responsible for the BC Global Education Program - Offshore Schools, with a plan and timeline for proposed implementation of the following items:

- The School is required to replace the outdated Consent Form for Storage and Access of Personal Information of the Students, Parents/Guardians and Teachers with the signed 2020/21 updated versions (Section 2.09 & 2.11).
- In lieu of the 'Letter of No objection', the School is required to forward to Ministry the original Letter of Approval that was granted by the local authority when the School was permitted to open in Beijing No. 8 Middle School, or the School must obtain written confirmation from the appropriate government entity with paramount responsibility for education in the jurisdiction in which the school is located, that the government entity expressly approves or has no objection to the Owner/Operator (a) operating the BC offshore school, (b) delivering the BC curriculum that will result in graduates receiving the BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood) and (c) hiring BC-certified teachers (Section 2.03).

NOTE FROM MINISTRY:

The two requirements listed above have been addressed to the Ministry's satisfaction. This School remains in good standing for the 2020/21 school year.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education that, contingent on responding to the above requirements to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, the British Columbia education program offered at Sino Bright School No. 8 continue to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

