

# Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

*at*

SINO BRIGHT SCHOOL NO. 8

BEIJING

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2018

## INTRODUCTION

On November 12-13, 2018, a 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 (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 Theo VandeWeg and Cathy Lowenstein (Chair).

The School's B.C. program has an enrolment of 122 students, in grades 10-12. The B.C. program is housed within a larger school, Beijing No. 8 High School Yihai Campus International Department, which is a private K-9 school that has been in operation for 11 years. The entire School, which houses the B.C. program, enrolls approximately 336 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, B.C. vice-principal, and B.C. teachers. The Team took the opportunity at this inspection to meet with each teacher, one on one.

The owner/operator, Beijing Sino Bright Education Co. Ltd, is responsible for the B.C. program. The owner/operator also operates other educational schools/projects in China and a Group 4 independent grade 10-12 high school, Sino Bright B.C. School in Vancouver B.C.



The B.C. program’s philosophy, objectives and special features are as follows:

“Sino Bright School strives to offer a quality educational program in China to meet the needs of Chinese and international students. Students are exposed to a variety of learning activities and strategies with a focus on student centered learning and the ability to produce lifelong creative, cooperative and independent learners.”

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

<b>The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment:</p> <p>There were no requirements from the fall 2017 offshore school inspection report for the School.</p>

## BUSINESS PLAN

<b>The owner/operator has submitted a business plan to the B.C. Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Team reviewed the 2018/19 annual report that includes a business plan outlining the long- term sustainability of the B.C. program. The grade 10 enrolment for this school year has had a sharp decline due to local Beijing government requirements to limit the growth of schools catering to non- Beijing residents.</p> <p>The School is working on goals for the 2018/19 year which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling 95% of grade 12 students to qualify for the Dogwood graduation diploma;</li> <li>• Reducing the number of “at-risk students” so they may become more successful in the B.C. program;</li> <li>• Attracting and maintaining qualified B.C. teachers and administrators which is of paramount importance to the success of the B.C. offshore program; and</li> <li>• Continuing a strong working relationship with its Chinese host school partners in a viable and comprehensive learning environment for all students.</li> </ul>



## 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:**

Sino Bright No.8 School holds appropriate provincial certification as set forth in the B.C. Global Education Program. The Team is satisfied that the facilities are in compliance and are suitable to support the B.C. program.

### 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 viewed translated copies of building and cafeteria inspections. The facilities are in compliance and are suitable to support the B.C. curriculum.

The School's emergency response plans for the 2018/19 school year include "any event that would cause an unplanned temporary or permanent closure of the school" and these plans have been vetted by the offshore school representative for accuracy and functionality.

The Team discussed the importance of the school's emergency response plan with the school principal and OSR. The School has operationalized this emergency response plan for 2018/19 and is encouraged to practice all drills and keep a log to verify the date and time.

## 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:**

The offshore school representative (OSR) is a highly experienced and qualified educational leader, with a relevant background and sophisticated understanding of the operations of offshore schools. The OSR is the past Inspector of Independent Schools in British Columbia and understands the complex management of offshore schools. The team appreciated the



attendance of the OSR at the inspection and the dedicated support given to the school in preparation for the inspection visit.

The OSR roles and duties meet requirements as per the Agreement with the province. The OSR was available during the inspection and the Team confirms that the OSR is aware of the obligation to report critical information relating to changes in the operation of the school or ownership structure that could significantly impact the School's operations.

The Team appreciated the attendance of the OSR at the inspection and the dedicated support given to the school in preparation for the inspection visit.

### 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 is in his third year as B.C. principal of SBS8. His past experience is with the B.C. public school system where he held various educational leadership positions. The principal has given good support to his faculty around the implementation of the new B.C. curriculum and has provided effective support for new teachers.

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### 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 has a defined administrative structure at the School.

A competent long serving teacher serves as the vice-principal. She has teaching and administrative duties that support the B.C program. Two Chinese program vice-principals look after facilities and logistics and one is specifically in charge of academic programs. There is also a Chinese administrator who supports all the data input and works with teachers and communicates with Chinese staff.

The Team was impressed with the excellent relationship between the B.C. program staff and the Chinese host school staff. The main Sino Bright office in Beijing delivers further administrative support to the B.C. program.



The School meets the requirements outlined in section 3.3 of the inspection catalogue.

The School is to be commended for a responsible administrative staff supporting the B.C. program and the excellent relationship between the B.C. staff and host School.

### **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 Team examined a random sampling of student records for grades 10, 11, and 12. The files were well organized and contained all the required elements. However, the student and parent consent forms need to be updated for the 2018/19 school year.

The School meets the student record requirements as outlined in section 3.4 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

### **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 School has two teachers on staff who are currently awaiting Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) certification and are working on an approved exemption until November 27, 2018.

The Team requested verification from the principal demonstrating that all required documents had been submitted to TRB for evaluation. Some teachers are still in the process of submitting mandated documents to the TRB that are necessary for certification by December 5, 2018.

The Team suggests that SBS8 develop a systematic tracking process for teacher certification to ensure the teachers are submitting all documents to the TRB as requested.

The Team had a discussion with the OSR and principal regarding contingency planning for the potential staffing issues that may arise due to teachers potentially not meeting the approved exemption date deadline for certification. It is suggested that the school address this issue immediately.



## 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:**

The School has implemented the required grade 10 curriculum and is commended for substantially implementing the draft curricula in grades 11 and 12. To support implementation, the principal provides bi-weekly professional development sessions for the teachers as part of the standard staff meetings. These bi-weekly sessions focus on a variety of curricular topics, including B.C. Performance Standards, Assessment for Learning, Planning Tools for the New Curriculum, Technology Integration, Numeracy Assessment, Using Thematic Concepts, Critical Thinking Rubrics, Oral Language Rubrics, Formative and Summative Assessment, etc.

The principal is to be commended for providing thorough educational leadership and support to teachers at the School.

**Commendation:**

The School and staff are to be commended for implementing the grade 11 and 12 draft curricula where possible.

### 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:**

A recent change in Beijing's student enrolment rules has resulted in a larger number of students enrolling with more limited English language skills. This has prompted the School to focus more directly on strengthening English language acquisition, especially for students who are considered 'at-risk.' This year, the School is hoping to reduce the percentage of at-risk students from 8.3% to less than 5%. Strategies include on-going assessments of students' English proficiency (with formal English assessments for grade 9 students to become annual standard practice in grades 10-12). Furthermore, the regular bi-weekly staff meetings are used in part to collaboratively develop school-wide language supports.



**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:**

This year, the School does not offer BAA courses for credit.

The Ministry has permitted the School to offer PE 10 and Visual Arts 12 through local Chinese teachers who are properly certified.

**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:**

All teachers have developed up-to-date planning documents that reflect the Ministry's new curriculum directions. All course overviews are well developed and follow a template that includes big ideas, curricular competencies, teaching and assessment strategies.

The principal has conducted several sessions on the new curriculum (both in the previous and current school year) and adds curricular topics to every staff meeting (which occur every two weeks).

It is expected that during this school year, the School will engage in additional professional development in the area of core competencies, student self-assessment, and First People's Principles of Learning.

The principal and teachers are commended for working with the curricular changes and reflecting these changes in their planning and practice.



**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 Team confirms the School's educational program runs for 6 hours per day for 180 days providing a total of 1080 hours of instruction annually.

The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in section 4.5 of the inspection catalogue.

**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:

Staff professional development has focused on the use of both formative and summative assessment practices and the use of performance standards and rubrics. Student assessment strategies are diverse and varied at the School.

The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 4.6 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

**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 has adequate resources to support student learning. The Team viewed the newly improved and dedicated English library for the B.C. program with a growing collection of print resources. The library is well organized, including an enlarged reading centre and an appropriate area for students to collaborate for project work.

The Team noted a computer lab in the library with over 20 networked computers for classes and students to use for research.



If needed, there is an alternate computer lab with 40 computers available for student use. All classrooms have Wi-Fi connectivity, LCD projectors and laptops for teacher use. The Team confirmed that teachers use a variety of on-line and digital resources to support and extend student learning.

The School has a defined process to acquire, distribute and support teachers with classroom resources to support the development of the B.C educational program. The Team verified that the principal has signed off on learning resources purchased for the school.

**Commendation:**

The Team noted the newly improved and dedicated English library with a growing collection of print resources.

**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 Team confirmed that SBS8 complies with the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 4.8 of the inspection catalogue.

The School reports on student achievement by sending home student progress reports four times per year and holding parent/teacher conferences twice per year. The School plans to hold open houses this year to give parents additional opportunity to engage with teachers and receive timely feedback on the progress of their child. Regular grade level team meetings help to identify at-risk students.

The Team viewed current report cards and identified that the language of the new curriculum should be incorporated.

**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 Team reviewed a well written and detailed parent/ student handbook which covers the rules and expectations of the School. A student conduct policy written in English and Chinese



is included in the handbook as well as an outline of specific rules for students living on campus.

The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 5.1 of the inspection catalogue.

Commendation:

A well written and detailed parent/ student handbook clearly delineating rules and expectations of the School.

**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 section 5.2 of the inspection catalogue. The Team reviewed the School's 2018-19 *Welcome Packet for Teachers*.

The comprehensive package contains detailed and helpful information for all teachers, and particularly new teachers to SBS8. The teacher package has been carefully designed to ensure that all information is clearly laid out and accessible to teachers. Included in this packet, is a policy outlining, "Cultural Sensitivity in China".

**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 courses by distributed learning at this time.



## CONCLUSION

### Commendations

**The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the owner/operator, principal and staff of Sino Bright School No. 8 for:**

- the implementation grade 11 and 12 draft curricula where possible,
- the newly improved and dedicated English library with a growing collection of print resources, and
- the well written and detailed parent/ student handbook which clearly delineates rules and expectations of 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 Sino Bright School No.8 continue to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.**

