

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

BRITISH COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, BANGKOK

BANGKOK

THAILAND

MARCH 21-22, 2019

INTRODUCTION

On March 21-22, 2019, a certification inspection was completed on British Columbia International School, Bangkok (BCISB) in Bangkok, Thailand, 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 consisted of Alan Schroeder, Director of Operations, International Education and Independent Schools of the B.C. Ministry of Education (the Inspector).

The School's B.C. program has an enrolment of 15 students, in grades 10, 11 and 12. The B.C. program is operated in the same facility as a K-9 school, which does not offer the B.C. curriculum, but an English-language curriculum sourced from a variety of jurisdictions. The entire School, which houses the B.C. program, enrolls approximately 145 students.

During the visit to the School, the Inspector 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 and vice principal, and B.C. teachers.

The owner/operator, Dr. Pakdee Tharnpanya, is responsible for the B.C. program offered in grades 10-12 as well as the K-9 program, which is not operated as a B.C. program. Through the Tharnpanya Education Group, the owner/operator also operates the Tharnpanya school, a local Thai school enrolling over 1,300 students. Dr. Tharnpanya also operates two post-secondary programs: one focusing on technology at the Tharn Institute of Technology and Management and another focusing on automotive at the Malachai Institute of Technology.



The School's philosophy and objectives are aimed at producing global-minded critical thinkers ready to undertake university-level schooling in quality English speaking universities worldwide. The School aims to prepare the students of today for the world of tomorrow.

The Team would like to thank the 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 Not Met <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment: The School had several requirements identified during its previous inspection (2017). All key concerns were addressed to the satisfaction of the Inspector.</p>
<p>Commendation: The School is commended for quickly and conscientiously addressing the issues raised during the previous inspection.</p>

BUSINESS PLAN

The owner/operator has submitted a business plan to the B.C. Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment: The School has submitted a business plan that aims to support student success and the long-term viability of the program. One of the biggest challenges facing the School is a low enrollment. The School has demonstrated that it is taking concrete actions to improve enrollment. Among its many actions, it has hired a marketing coordinator and has refreshed and enhanced its web and social media presence. The result has been a significant increase in web traffic to the School as well as inquiries and visits to the School.</p> <p>The School is also working to enhance the academic and extracurricular opportunities for students, such as by acquiring robotics kits for the ICT class and the introduction of a new business program. The School has also approved a plan to install a swimming pool on the campus, an addition that is expected to be quite popular among current and prospective students and families.</p>



The School has also enhanced communications plans with parents. It is expected that this enhanced communication will lead to greater engagement between parents and the School and lead to greater student retention between the School's K-9 international program and the grade 10-12 B.C. program.

Further contributing to the advancement and stability of the B.C. program is its enhanced teacher retention rate with only one new teacher in the 2018/19 school year.

The School is also pursuing accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) which is intended to bolster recognition of the School and its educational program.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the investment it is making and the concrete actions it has taken to enhance student and teacher experiences and improve student enrollment through a multi-faceted approach to program growth.

Requirement:

The School is required to provide a monthly update until the start of the 2019/20 school year (September 2019) to the Ministry on the progress of its marketing and enrollment growth efforts.

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 Inspector confirmed that the owner/operator, Dr. Pakdee Tharnpanya, meets all of the requirements as set forth in the certification agreement. Dr. Tharnpanya is actively engaged in the management of the School.

The School has on file an original letter of approval for establishing the School issued by the Office of the Private Education Commission of Thailand. The School also has on file its current external quality assessment certificate issued by the Thai national Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), which is valid for five years until September 30, 2019.



Commendation:

The owner/operator is to be commended for his commitment to and extensive investment in the program aimed at supporting teachers and contributing to student success.

Requirement:

The School is required to have a certified translation prepared for all official documents related to the establishment, licensing and quality assurance of the School, such as the ONESQA quality assessment certificate.

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 campus consists of two buildings: a main building and a large gymnasium. The main building is bright, well-maintained and contains 54 classrooms, meeting rooms, staff and student canteen, nurse's station, drama room, art room, maker space, music room, computer labs, and a science lab.

The Inspector reviewed local building permits, a food safety system certificate of registration, a TQCSI certificate of registration which covers the processing of shrimp, and a Halal Certificate. Permits and confirms that all local requirements are being met.

The School has developed policies to respond to emergency situations. The Inspector verified that emergency drills are conducted three times per year with a particular focus on fire and earthquake response. The School revised its emergency evacuation plan for 2018/19.

The School has added plans to its policy binder to support students and teachers in the event of temporary or permanent closure of the School. The additional plans were reviewed by the offshore school representative for accuracy and functionality.



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 an experienced education administrator with many years of experience as a teacher and principal in British Columbia. He has served as OSR for the School for six years.

The Inspector reviewed the job description of the OSR and confirmed that all of the requirements related to the OSR in the Agreement are in compliance.

The offshore school representative is aware of his obligation to report critical information relating to changes in the operation of the School or ownership structure that could significantly impact the School's operation.

The Inspector appreciated the assistance of the OSR during the inspection.

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 second year as principal at BCISB. Prior to that, he served one year as vice principal. He also has experience serving as principal in another BC offshore school.

The principal is supported by a vice principal who is in his second year with the School. He is responsible for quality of program delivery and teacher professional development.

The School has recently added additional leadership positions such as Literacy Coordinator, Athletic Director, Academic Counselor and ELL Coordinator. These additions are intended to provide opportunities for career growth and leadership and professional development.

The School is being well-served by the principal, vice principal and the extended administrative team who place a high value on cultivating positive working relationships with both the owner/operator and the teaching faculty. The principal, vice principal, school director and deputy director have this school year implemented weekly meetings to talk about administrative matters related the School.



There is a high level of cooperation and a universal commitment to having all students at the School experience success.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the highly collaborative administrative team comprised of the principal and vice principal whose collective efforts have contributed to providing a positive learning climate for both students and staff.

The School is commended for providing additional opportunities for career growth and leadership development through the creation of positions of administrative authority.

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:

In addition to its administrative leadership team, the School has a highly capable, committed and devoted administrative support team comprising a secretary, human resources officer, a registrar and accountant who work to handle the day-to-day operations of the School and its finances, student records, and support the work of the teachers and administration.

Commendation:

The Inspector commends the demonstrated commitment of the administrative support team to provide quality service to the B.C. program teachers and students.

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 Inspector reviewed all student files and confirmed that the files contain required documents including a registration form, ELL entrance assessment results and copies of student report cards. The B.C. Ministry of Education's personal information consent form revised for 2018/19 has not been completed by all students and parents. The student files are maintained by the registrar and are stored in a secure filing cabinet in the registrar's office.

The permanent school record (1704) is kept up-to-date and is securely backed up on the Maplewood education technology platform whose server is in Canada.



Requirement:

The School is required to have students and parents complete the B.C. Ministry of Education's personal information consent form (revised for 2018/19).

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 Inspector confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch.

The Inspector reviewed all B.C. certified teachers' and administrators' files and confirmed the presence of most necessary elements including copies of each teacher's Certificate of Qualification issued by the B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch, employment contract, teacher evaluations, contact information and valid work permit. In some cases, the most recent teacher evaluation forms were missing and in all cases the B.C. Ministry of Education teacher consent form (revised for 2018/19) was not completed.

The Inspector verified that the School has one teacher whose Certificate of Qualification application was in progress. The Inspector confirmed that the School possesses a letter dated March 4, 2019 by the B.C. Ministry of Education providing a temporary exemption for the teacher. The Inspector verified that the School is supporting the teacher to ensure that all proper documentation is submitted to the B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch in a timely manner.

For all locally-certified teachers, the Inspector verified local teacher certifications and criminal records checks.

The School works at creating an attractive, comfortable and supportive atmosphere, an effort that has contributed to enhanced teacher retention. The School offers a competitive salary and benefits package and has added positions designed to create leadership development and career growth opportunities such as literacy coordinator, athletic director, academic counselor and ELL coordinator.

The School has worked to develop a professional development program aimed at supporting the professional needs of teachers with themes focusing on areas such as the new B.C. curriculum, student research methods, literacy, and student wellness. The School had five educators participate in the Ministry's annual professional development workshop held in



July 2018. The School's principal and vice-principal plan to attend the annual offshore administrators conference to be offered in late March 2019.

There is a high level of collaboration among the teaching staff at BCISB. The Inspector was impressed by the multiple examples of cross-curricular collaboration between teachers and classes at the School.

When asked to identify the School's greatest strength, most often cited by teachers was the high level of collaboration among teachers and support provided to each other.

Commendation:

The teaching staff is commended for their dedication, commitment, energy and enthusiasm to grow as professionals and help students achieve success.

Requirement:

The School is required to have teachers complete the B.C. Ministry of Education's personal information consent form (updated for 2018/19).

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 Inspector confirmed that the new curriculum has been fully implemented at the grade 10 level as required for the 2018/19 school year. The Inspector also observed that the School is well prepared for the full implementation of grade 11 and 12 curriculum in the 2019/20 school year as teachers in most subject areas have already shifted the content focus to the new curriculum.

The School makes use of curriculum development software by Atlas Rubicon. Core competencies, Big Ideas, curricular competencies and First Peoples' Principles of Learning are all integrated into course overviews and daily lesson planning. Teachers' course overviews and lesson plans incorporated various forms of assessment and the use of rubrics. The Inspector observed that teachers incorporate student self-reflection across the curriculum.

Teachers commented that they like the new curriculum and find it to be more relevant to students and more adaptable which has lead to students being more responsive.



Commendation:

The staff is commended for the rich and varied learning experiences in which they engage their students.

The School is commended for fully implementing the new B.C. curriculum at the grade 10 level and implementing much of the grade 11 and 12 curriculum ahead of the scheduled implementation next school year.

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 School has implemented an ELL assessment developed and administered by the resource teacher. After administration, the results are reviewed by the principal prior to making final program entrance decisions. The Inspector confirmed that the principal has ultimate authority over admission into the B.C. program.

The School makes use of Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing three times annually and a school-wide testing twice annually.

The School supports student achievement in English language proficiency through the application of multiple means including providing individual support to students through the use of push-ins and pull-outs by a B.C.-certified teacher and by employing a literacy coordinator who provides individual support to teachers on how to adjust pedagogy to enhance instruction to English language learners. Teachers also make a conscious effort to support student understanding by employing a variety of techniques to introduce key language and concepts at the beginning of each class and unit.

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:

With the greater number of courses available with the implementation of the new curriculum, the School decided that it is no longer necessary to offer its BAA course, ESL10, and has discontinued its use.



The School offers three courses that have been exempted from having B.C.-certified teachers teach the course: Music 10/11/12, Thai Language and Culture 11/11/12 for native speakers of Thai and Thai Language and Culture 10/11/12 for non-native speakers of Thai.

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 School uses the Atlas Rubicon curriculum development software for its annual course planning at the grade 10, 11 and 12 levels. Course overviews and lesson plans clearly reflect the curricular framework of the new B.C. curriculum, with clear links between what the goal of the lesson was (Know, Do, Understand), what was being taught (content) and by what means (instructional strategy), how student learning was being measured (rubrics, self assessment), and how a particular lesson or learning activity built on previous learning. Core competencies are addressed in unit outlines and lesson plans. Competency display posters appear in classrooms throughout the School. First Peoples' Principles of Learning are incorporated into lesson planning; teachers informed the Inspector that they were using First Peoples' Principles of Learning to explore elements of Thai indigenous culture.

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 has 182 instructional days per year with five hours of instructional time daily for a total of 910 hours per year which exceeds the minimum required number of hours by 60.



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 School employs a variety of methods to assess student achievement. DRA testing and MAP testing provide data that can be analyzed by teachers to identify specific areas for student support. The School has provided professional development to teachers to support their ability to analyze data.

Teachers are encouraged to use both formative and summative assessment practices. The School's literacy coordinator and resource teacher help to ensure assessment is vertically aligned properly.

Teachers describe using a variety of techniques to demonstrate student learning including journal writing, presentations and class discussions, and student self-assessment.

B.C. provincial exams and assessments are invigilated by the principal and/or vice principal who ensure that computers in the computer lab are prepared according to Ministry guidelines.

Commendation:

Teachers are to be commended for the variety and creative techniques used to demonstrate student learning and student engagement.

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 made considerable investments in learning resources to support the success of students. The School has a bright and welcoming library stocked with a growing collection of print materials. Particular emphasis in the last couple of years has been on the investment of digital resources aimed to better facilitate good quality student research.

The use of technology throughout the School is pervasive. Each student is provided with a Chromebook while each teacher is provided with a Chromebook and desktop computer which the Inspector observed being used extensively. The School employs Google Classroom and Google apps which facilitates students, parents, teachers and administrators' ability to collaborate and communicate. The School employs a full-time IT coordinator to support the



use of technology. The Inspector observed that the School appears to have strong and robust internet connectivity.

Commendation:

The School is to be commended for the extensive use of technology throughout the school aimed at equipping students with digital skills to prepare them for their futures.

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 student report cards meet Ministry requirements as per the inspection catalogue. Two progress reports are provided to parents each semester – one mid-term and one final report.

The School has made efforts in recent years to enhance parent engagement regarding student progress through the use of open houses, parent conferences, Google classroom and recently introduced “coffee mornings”, an initiative aimed at making the principal and vice principal more easily accessible to parents.

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 Inspector confirmed that the parent/student handbook meets all of the requirements and that a section on policy and procedures for appeals and dispute resolution has been added as required for the 2018/19 school year.

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 has a comprehensive school operation manual (teacher handbook) that includes content in support of teachers’ professional needs. The Inspector verified that the teacher



handbook contains a detailed overview of the School's teacher evaluation policy in which teachers are available on a regular cycle by the principal or vice principal.

The Inspector confirmed that the School has added an acknowledgement that the Province is not party to the contract of employment between the owner/operator and the teacher.

The Inspector also verified that the School has a school administrator evaluation policy whereby the vice principal is evaluated by the principal and the principal is evaluated by the offshore school representative on a regular cycle.

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 offers one distributed learning course - Foundations of Math 11 - to one student through the prescribed provider – SD73 Business Company – Global Education.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the owner/operator, principal and staff of British Columbia International School, Bangkok for:

- The School is commended for quickly and conscientiously addressing the issues raised during the previous inspection.
- The School is commended for the investment it is making and the concrete actions it has taken to enhance student and teacher experiences and improve student enrollment through a multi-faceted approach to program growth.
- The owner/operator is to be commended for his commitment to and extensive investment in the program aimed at supporting teachers and contributing to student success.
- The School is commended for the highly collaborative administrative team comprised of the principal and vice principal whose collective efforts have contributed to providing a positive learning climate for both students and staff.



- The School is commended providing additional opportunities for career growth and leadership development through the creation of positions of administrative authority.
- The School is commended for the demonstrated commitment of the administrative support team to provide quality service to the B.C. program teachers and students.
- The teaching staff is commended for their dedication, commitment, energy and enthusiasm to grow as professionals and help students achieve success.
- The staff is commended for the rich and varied learning experiences in which they engage their students.
- The School is commended for fully implementing the new B.C. curriculum at the grade 10 level and implementing much of the grade 11 and 12 curriculum ahead of the scheduled implementation next school year.
- The School is to be commended for the extensive use of technology throughout the school aimed at equipping students with digital skills to prepare them for their futures.

Requirements

In order to meet the requirements of the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*, the Team requires that by May 15, 2019 the owner/operator provide the Executive Director of International Education and Independent Schools, responsible for B.C. Global Education Program - Offshore Schools, with a plan and timeline for proposed implementation of the following items:

- The School is required to provide a monthly update until the start of the 2019/20 school year to the Ministry on the progress of its marketing and enrollment growth efforts.
- The School is required to have a certified translation prepared for all official documents related to the establishment, licensing and quality assurance of the School such as the ONESQA quality assessment certificate.
- The School is required to have all teachers complete the B.C. Ministry of Education’s personal information consent form (revised for 2018/19).
- The School is required to have students and parents complete the B.C. Ministry of Education’s personal information consent form (revised for 2018/19).

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspector recommends to the Executive Director of International Education and Independent Schools that, contingent on responding to the above requirements to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, the British Columbia education program offered at British Columbia International School, Bangkok continue to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

