

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

CANADA WEIFANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

WEIFANG, SHANDONG PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

OCTOBER 23-24, 2017

INTRODUCTION

On October 23-24, 2017, a Certification Inspection was completed on Canada Weifang Secondary School in Weifang, Shandong Province, People's Republic of China, termed CWSS or 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, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Mr. Hugh Gloster and Mr. Harry Moes, chair.

The School's B.C. Program has an enrolment of 87 students, in Grades 10 - 12. The entire School, which houses the B.C. Program, enrolls 4500 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. teachers and members of the Weifang No. 1 Middle School administrative team.

The owner/operator, Mr. John Zhu, is responsible for the B.C. Program. His company, Canadian-Sino Education Exchange Centre (CSEEC) operates three additional B.C. offshore schools in Shandong Province: Canada Qingdao Secondary School in Qingdao, Canada Shandong Secondary School in Tai'an, and Canada Yantai Secondary School in Yantai.

The B.C. Program's philosophy, objectives and special features includes:

- Provide educational opportunities for all students to experience success, to strive for excellence, and to appreciate the value of learning, in an environment characterized by caring, respect, cooperation and personal integrity



- Encourage tolerance and diversity by respecting individual differences
- Develop positive attitudes and encourage students to become independent learners
- Offer both the Chinese Graduation Certificate from Weifang No. 1 Middle School and the B.C. Dogwood Diploma to its graduates.

The Team would like to thank Canada Weifang Secondary School for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

No requirements were listed in the November 16-17, 2016 certification inspection report.

BUSINESS PLAN

The Owner/Operator has submitted a Business Plan to the B.C. Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School's 2017-18 Business Plan, submitted to the Ministry of Education was reviewed by the Team, during the inspection visit. It was noted and observed that the School continues to maintain its mission statement and/or philosophy statements presented in the 2016-17 Annual Report.

The School is permitted, by the Weifang Education Bureau to recruit up to 60 students into grade 10 each year. Recent marketing efforts have included highlighting the new curriculum initiatives, scheduled open houses, middle school visits, website advertisements and invitations to the surrounding community to special events.

A partnership with B.C. School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) affords students the opportunity to study in Canada during the summer months.

Commendation:

The owner/operator and offshore school representative were present, transparent and supportive throughout the inspection process. It is very noteworthy that the entire class of 2017 were accepted into international post-secondary institutions



**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, Canadian-Sino Education Exchange Centre (CSEEC), Mr. John Zhu, meets all the requirements as set forth in the B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement.

The Team reviewed with the principal, the owner operator and the offshore school representative, changes to the BC Offshore School Program Certification Requirements.

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 is housed in the International Department building on the Weifang No. 1 Middle School campus. The campus is gated and secure. Ten classrooms, a computer lab, three science labs, five designated offices, library, auditorium and athletic fields are available for program delivery and administrative needs. Local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations are met by the larger host school.

The School has a written emergency plan for natural disasters (i.e., fire, earthquake) and is aware that it needs to develop plans for any event that would cause an unplanned temporary or permanent closure of the school. The School is aware that the updated emergency plan needs to be vetted for accuracy and functionality by the OSR with the submission of the 2018 Annual Report.



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 appointed offshore school representative (OSR), Mr. Roger Lindstrom, serves as the primary liaison between the owner/operator and the Ministry of Education.

The OSR is knowledgeable about all aspects of the School's operations and all related aspects of the owner/operator's business operations, governance, business and administrative functions of his operation of the school.

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 has ten years of onshore administrative experience and arrived at the School in September 2017. The Principal employs a collaborative style working closely together with the owner operator, OSR, the host school, administrative staff and teachers. He has enthusiastically embraced his role as educational leader and meets the requirements as outlined in Section 3.2 of the Inspection Catalogue and detailed in his job description.

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:

An administrative assistant and office assistant, capably and effectively support the principal, owner/operator and OSR, liaise between B.C. and Chinese teachers and support staff, and support staff culture acclimatization.

Commendation

The School is commended for providing executive administrative assistance to support the principal in the development of the School's annual plans, and to liaise with the owner/operator and OSR, principal and staff. The executive administrator was well versed in



the requirements of the B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement as well as the implementation requirements of the new B.C. curriculum.

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 maintains and securely stores individual student record files for all students with current registration forms, English language assessments (verified by the principal), the last two report cards and the B.C. Ministry of Education’s personal information consent forms.

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.

The Team verified that teacher files contain current teacher contact information and a copy of the teacher’s work permit or visa.

The Team verified that locally certified teachers (of approved exempted courses) have valid local certification and that criminal record checks were appropriately filed.

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 Team confirmed that CWSS is meeting all the requirements for curriculum implementation that are outlined in the Inspection Catalogue. Along with delivering the existing program, the staff has begun to focus on aspects of the redesigned provincial curriculum this year. The new principal of the school is very familiar with the drafts that are available for review, as he has been involved with curriculum development in two school districts in B.C.



The staff have had two professional development sessions to explore the core competencies, and there are posters displayed in the school to remind everyone what they are and what they mean in 'student friendly' language. The staff have agreed to initially focus on the communications competency while also agreeing to look at the integration of First Peoples' content and to focus on self and peer assessment. Over time they also want to work on the critical thinking competency.

A further effort is being made to adopt a cross-curricular theme in the school that is focused on the concept of 'resilience', with teachers trying to make connections to the theme in their own classes.

The next level of this work will involve adjusting pedagogy to reflect the more student-centered philosophy of the new curriculum.

Commendation:

CWSS is commended for the work they have already done to focus on multiple aspects of the redesigned provincial curriculum. Specifically:

- The core competencies with an initial emphasis on the communications competency and critical thinking
- The use of rubrics in 'student friendly' language to promote self and peer assessment
- The First Peoples' Principles of Learning

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:

As the majority of the teachers on staff are new to CWSS this year, the topic of how to adjust pedagogy to meet the needs of English language learners has already been a focus of discussion. Resources identifying 'best practice' strategies have been shared and more experienced teachers are supporting others who are new to working in an ELL environment. This topic continues to be a goal for ongoing professional development work by the staff.

The School uses a very detailed 'English Entrance Examination' to determine the eligibility of students for entry into the program. This assessment includes eight sections dealing with various aspects of student skill level, including: Listening, Punctuation, Spelling and Grammar, Parts of Speech, Vocabulary, Grammar, Reading Comprehension, Writing (Sentence and Paragraph), and a personal interview. This instrument is administered by the principal with support from the teachers on two different dates in May.



Once students have entered the B.C. Program, each student receives two full blocks of English/Language Arts in each year. Supports are offered by individual classroom teachers in their classes, and there is also a tutorial block offered for one hour every Thursday afternoon. Students with low marks in their English/Language Arts classes are required to attend this tutorial time. Students, whose proficiency in English was marginal at the time of entry into the Program, are re-tested periodically, and their parents are consulted in terms of further supports and future plans.

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:

The Team confirms that all requirements described in the Operating Manual for Offshore Schools are being met. The School supports student learning by offering ESL 10 as a BAA courses.

Mandarin 10, Mandarin 11, Mandarin 12 have been exempted from requiring B.C. certified teachers, and appropriate documentation is in place to support each of these course offerings.

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:

During the visit, the Team spent time with each teacher reviewing their planning documents. In each case there were course overviews, unit plans and individual lesson plans. The units were deliberately structured to ensure that all PLO's would be addressed during the semester.

While the teachers use different approaches to prepare to teach their students, there was sufficient evidence of thoughtful planning in each case to confirm that this requirement was being met.



4.5 The School meets the instructional time allotments 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 that the requirements for instructional time allotments have been met. The school currently offers 883 actual school hours per year, which exceeds the minimum requirement of 850.

The School operates on a semester system with a timetable that offers four 60-minute blocks of time before morning break. In the afternoon the timetable flexes with students attending an extra block of instructional time on Mondays, a 2-hour Clubs Program on Wednesdays and a 1-hour tutorial class on Thursdays. Following this, all students attend their Chinese classes and, for the majority of students living on campus, this is followed by mandatory study time.

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 data report was not available to the Team in time for the on-site visit, however it was possible to review the overall success of the previous year's graduating class with the staff. All of last year's graduates were able to gain entry into an accredited offshore post-secondary institution. Staff also reported that classroom marks did compare favorably with the results students received on their provincial assessments, and that there was no significant discrepancy.

The Team also confirmed that the teaching staff was in the process of developing a rubric, written in student-friendly language, to support the practice of peer and self-assessment.

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 is well equipped in terms of learning resources, with a good supply of text books for core courses as well as teacher-generated classroom support materials. A dedicated



photocopier is available to the staff to assist them in preparing their own materials.

Each classroom is equipped with a ceiling-mounted projector, and most teachers were observed using this, connected to their own computers, for instructional purposes. Classes were also seen accessing the internet for research purposes and the computer lab was used regularly to support the delivery of curricula.

The staff and grade 10 students have recently established a 'Learning Commons' space that meets the requirement for library resources to support student learning. This facility has a cluster of computers for student and staff use, along with a collection of fiction and non-fiction books. There is also the start of a 'Maker space' to support students being able to engage in hands-on learning activities. This facility will be staffed by a Teaching Assistant starting in January, and it will be used to support the overall literacy program of the school. Further organizing of the print materials into reading levels can happen once the assistant is in place.

Commendations:

- For the work that has been done to create a Learning Commons space in the school for the future use of students and staff.
- For building a positive sense of community and social responsibility by engaging the students in the design and creation of the Learning Commons space.

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:

CWSS recently held an informal 'meet the teacher' event to introduce parents to the school staff. This is being followed by an informal interim report that is issued in October. Full report cards are issued in November, January, April and June, and parent-teacher-student conferences are scheduled to follow the reports in November and April.

Formal report cards provide letter grades and percentages for all courses, along with an assessment for work habits. Teacher comments are also included and these are translated into Mandarin for the benefit of the parents. Report cards also list both BAA and exempted courses as well as recording whether the requirements for Daily Physical Activity have been met.



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 parent/student handbook, with designated sections dealing the School's mission statement, philosophic underpinnings, staff, organizational structures, procedural expectations, as well as assessment and evaluation descriptions, continue to be updated.

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's teacher handbook details the School's mission statement and school philosophy; CWSS unique teaching environment; professional and social responsibilities; school organization; and assessment and evaluation.

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 any Distributed Learning courses.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the owner/operator, principal and staff of Canada Weifang Secondary School for:

- Providing educational opportunities for all students to experience success, to strive for excellence, and to appreciate the value of learning, in an environment characterized by caring, respect, cooperation and personal integrity
- The assistance and transparency of the owner/operator and offshore school representative during the inspection.
- The entire class of 2017 being accepted into international post-secondary institutions
- Providing executive administrative assistance to support the principal in the development of the School's Annual Plans, liaise with the owner/operator and OSR, principal and staff. The executive administrator was well versed in the requirements of the BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement as well as the implementation requirements of the new BC curriculum.
- the work they have already done to focus on multiple aspects of the redesigned provincial curriculum. Specifically: (1) The Core Competencies with an initial emphasis on the Communications competency and Critical Thinking; (2) The use of rubrics in 'student friendly' language to promote self and peer assessment; (3) The First Peoples' Principles of Learning
- The work that has been done to create a Learning Commons space in the school for the future use of students and staff.
- Building a positive sense of community and social responsibility by engaging the students in the design and creation of the Learning Commons space.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of International Education that the British Columbia education program offered at Canada Weifang Secondary School continue to be recognized as a British Columbia- Certified School.

