

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

CANADA BRITISH COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS - CHANGCHUN

CHANGCHUN, JILIN PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 20-21, 2019

INTRODUCTION

On November 19-20, 2019, a virtual certification inspection was completed on Canada British Columbia International Schools - Changchun, in Changchun, Jilin Province, People's Republic of China referred to as the School or CBCIS-CCC 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 Collette Ellis-Toddington and Peter Drescher (Chair).

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 36 students, in Grades 11 and 12. The School is in its tenth year of operation as a BC offshore school and is housed within a local public school, Changchun Shiyi High School (CSHS), which enrolls more than 4300 students. The BC program occupies the fifth floor of the host school's administrative building.

During their virtual visit with 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 Kezhi Superintendent, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal, BC teachers, the Deputy Director of the International Division, several Grade 12 students, and the principal of the host school.

The Owner/Operator, Sunny Bai, Beijing Kezhi Times International Consulting Co. Ltd., is responsible for the BC program. Mr. Bai owns five other BC offshore schools in China, several more schools associated with other provinces, and Lowell High School, a Group 4 independent school in Vancouver, BC. Their "system" of BC schools is now known as Canada British Columbia International Schools or CBCIS.



The BC program's mission is stated as follows:

We are dedicated to preparing our students for success in a rapidly changing world by providing a supportive learning environment that recognizes and respects individual differences, encourages students to challenge personal limits and promotes excellence.

The School's values and beliefs center around the following

We are student-centred with focus on new curriculum learning and success for all students. We believe that all persons in our school are learners and responsible for ensuring that learning is centered on the student.

The Team would like to thank Canada British Columbia International School - Changchun for its cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Comment: There were no requirements to be met contained in the previous inspection report.

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 Not Met
Comment: The Team reviewed the business plan filed by the Owner/Operator. The Team was advised that the provincial education authority did not allow an intake of Grade 10 students in September. This resulted in a precipitous decline in enrolment to 36 students (20 in Grade 11 and 16 in Grade 12). Enrolment decline has been an ongoing problem since it reached its peak of 104 students in 2015/16 and 2016/17. The School's desired capacity is about 150 students or two cohorts per grade. The School is still awaiting word that they will be able to resume enrolling Grade 10 for next year and are hopeful that the timing of the approval will not impact student and teacher recruitment efforts. There are three middle schools in the Changchun area that enrol students who have sufficient English language skills to be successful in the BC program, and whose parents are able to manage the tuition costs. Competition for students arises from an International



Baccalaureate program, an English language school based on the Nova Scotia curriculum, a British school, and a US foreign language school and two schools attached to universities in the Changchun area. The Superintendent for CBCIS and the OSR are confident that enrolment targets can be met.

The School is marketed through school visits, WeChat and QQ forums, brochures, five opportunities to write the entrance assessment, and direct parent-recruiter meetings.

A long serving member of the administrative support team employed by the Owner/Operator and who was responsible for marketing has left the School. Responsibility is transferring to the host school's Deputy Director of the International Division. This would be an appropriate time for the Owner/Operator to do a thorough review of its marketing efforts.

The Team reviewed the School's approaches to communicating with parents. A variety of written communications take place, and parents have an opportunity to connect with the school through orientation meetings, and parent/teacher/student conferences.

100% of the class of 2019 graduated last June. Six of the twenty-six students are now enrolled in BC post-secondary institutions, eight registered in Ontario, four in Alberta, two in Quebec and two in Australia. Former students who have graduated from foreign universities are often invited to return to CBCIS-CC to speak to its future graduates.

Post-secondary advisement is currently a joint effort between the Principal of the School and the Owner/Operator's Beijing office. The host school's new Deputy Director of the International Division will be assuming the site duties after a period of orientation and mentoring.

Commendation:

The School is to be commended for its very high graduation rate (100%) and successful placement of 77% of them in Canadian post-secondary institutions.

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 Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator meets the requirement stated in the Agreement. The Owner/Operator owns a system of six offshore schools and a Group 4 independent school in Vancouver. The system, known as Canada British Columbia International Schools (CBCIS) has its own



superintendent responsible for curriculum implementation and professional development, and provides a wide array of programs and services to support its schools and professional staff.

Commendation:

The Owner/Operator is commended for the network of support that it provides to the School and other schools within the CBCIS system. This includes, but is not limited to professional development opportunities, archived curriculum planning and lesson ideas, networking opportunities for professional staff, and post-secondary advisement for students.

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 Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator has written approval by the Changchun Education Bureau to operate the BC program. Its expiry date is July 15, 2021.

The constraints placed on the School by the provincial education authority in not being able to recruit Grade 10 students remains an issue at the time of the inspection. The School awaits approval to again register Grade 10 students. The timing of this approval is of paramount importance as it affects not only student recruitment but also staff recruitment and retention.

2.04 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 Not Met

Comment:

As the BC program is housed within a larger school, Changchun Shiyi High School has overall responsibility for the facilities. The Team reviewed the documents pertaining to municipal codes and safety requirements and found them to be in order. An evacuation plan is in place for the entire school, and emergency drills are conducted by the BC program seven times per year. There is documentation which includes a protocol for unplanned temporary or permanent closure of the School which has been vetted by the OSR for accuracy and functionality. Emergency procedures are outlined in staff and parent/student handbooks and fully detailed in an International School Emergency Response Manual.



The BC program occupies the fifth floor of the host school's administration building. They have five classrooms, two computer labs faced in English, four offices, a library and two open area spaces suitable for various student activities and class projects. The BC program is advocating for its own science and applied skills laboratory to support a future STEAM project-based learning initiative.

The Team is satisfied that the facilities are in compliance and are suitable to support the BC program.

2.05 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) has many years of experience in the role and meets requirements. He is an OSR for several BC offshore school programs.

The Team confirms that the OSR 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 operations.

2.06 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.06 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Principal has seven years of international school experience in China, six years as a principal and five years as principal at CBCIS-C. He has been a teacher and administrator in British Columbia as well in his forty-one years as an educator.

The Principal is a resourceful instructional leader. He is very knowledgeable about the current thinking around curriculum, effective teaching, learning engagement and the professional growth of teachers. He is highly supportive of his staff and has developed a very positive working relationship with them. They hold him in high regard.

Commendation:

The Team commends the highly supportive role that the Principal plays in providing instructional leadership to his staff and for striving to do whatever he can to ensure that they have what they need to do their best work.



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

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the requirements for administrative support. An English-speaking Chinese administrative assistant has responsibility for maintaining student records, translation services, ministry data transfers and a range of other duties. She is new to her position this year.

The Deputy Director of the International Division acts as a liaison between the BC Program and the host school. She has taken on additional responsibilities for marketing and recruitment and post-secondary advisement.

A former Director who was one of the Schools founders remains actively involved as mentor and special academic advisor.

Instructional technology support is provided by staff from the main school.

The Program is also supported by the Owner/Operator's CBCIS administration and office staff, who provide a variety of supports for the School.

2.08 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Student files are securely stored and are maintained by the administrative assistant. She had this responsibility for several years and has ensured that files are well organized using well established routines to meet the requirements established by the Ministry. The structure of the virtual inspection made it difficult for the Team to do a thorough inspection of the files. A new administrative assistant has just recently assumed the position. The Principal has assured the Team that well-developed routines established through past practice will continue and will be closely monitored until the new assistant is comfortable in her new role.



2.09-2.14 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.09-2.14 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 Ministry of Education. The Team verified that they also have the appropriate work visas.

Staff are well supported through professional development opportunities provided by CBCIS with live and archived webinars, opportunities for inter-school networking and collaboration, and resources for teachers.

School-based professional development has been singularly focussed on the implementation of the new curriculum. The staff is highly collaborative and contribute to each other's professional learning.

2.17 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.17 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School has fully implemented the new curriculum for Grades 11 and 12. The Team reviewed course outlines, unit plans and lesson plans. Big Ideas, core competencies and curriculum competencies are addressed in the planning documents of all courses. Inquiry based projects are described in course outlines for Social Studies 10, P.E. 10, English courses and Economics 12. Planning documents, student work samples and assessments indicate that core competencies are an intentional and ongoing part of the student's learning. First Peoples Principles of Learning are also being addressed. One noteworthy example is of a teacher describing how First Peoples Principles of Learning were applied through a specific project for Grade 12 students. Holistic learning, recognizing the consequences of one's actions, learning involving patience and time, and learning that requires exploration of one's identity were all addressed as the students carried out a series of peer to peer teaching activities. First Peoples' curricular content was also evident in course overviews and lesson plans. Connections were made to Chinese history.

Commendation:

The Team commends the resourcefulness, thoughtfulness, creativity and innovation that staff have demonstrated in providing a student-centred approach to implementing the new curriculum.



2.18 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 2.18 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School uses an English language entrance assessment developed for and used by all CBCIS schools in China. It includes listening, vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, writing, and an oral interview component. The Principal conducts the interviews and makes the decisions regarding admission. Approximately 65-75% of students participating in the assessment meet the admission standard.

Class sizes are very small allowing teachers to individualize instruction for those who require additional support. New vocabulary is presented and discussed at the beginning of lessons to allow for better understanding during instructional time.

Grade 11 students do a standardized language acquisition assessment (Touchstone) twice each year. This assessment identifies individual language deficits that inform teachers as to what teaching adjustments should be made. A number of Grade 11 students have English language skills that are either emerging or developing and are in need of extra support. The Principal provides intensive hands-on, experiential language development activities in a special class for these students.

2.19(a-e) The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 2.19 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School is not offering BAA or exempted courses this year. There are no students from other jurisdictions that requested credits through equivalency or challenge.



2.19(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 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:

Planning documents meet the learning outcomes/standards identified in the BC Ministry of Educational program guides. Each course has an overview and unit plans that include content, teaching strategies, assessment and evaluation methods that are linked to the BC learning standards. The Team found planning documents to be thoughtfully prepared and focussed on student engagement. A fuller discussion of course planning was included in 2.17 curriculum implementation.

Commendation:

The Team commends the thoughtful planning for instruction by staff. The learning experiences in which they engage their students are rich and varied and allow students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

2.20 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 exceeds the required instructional hours. There are 182 days in session with 6 hours per day for a total of 1092 hours of instruction.

The School operates on a combined semester/linear timetable that provides for year-long English classes. Students obtain eight Language Arts credits each year.



2.21 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.21 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team reviewed the results of the most recent Numeracy assessment. 78% of the students scored 3 or 4 (proficient, extending) on the assessment. The School plans an intensive, focused preparation for this year's Literacy and Numeracy assessments in the spring.

Lesson plans and evidence of student work indicates the extensive use of student self-reflection and self-assessment. English 12 students started their course by examining the ministry website and the Grade 12 Language Arts curriculum. They worked with their teacher to determine their own syllabus and co-developed rubrics to be used in assessing progress. The Team had interviewed several Grade 12 students who indicated that it was one of their most memorable learning experiences this year. There is clear evidence of the significant use of peer evaluations, student reflections, peer teaching, peer editing, and self-evaluation as part of the assessment process in all classes. These forms of assessments were more prevalent in the Humanities courses. Teachers in science and mathematics are still investigating how to adapt this type of assessment in their courses.

The staff regularly discuss the achievement of individual students to ensure that they are receiving the supports they need to be successful. They also engage conversations about their assessment practices in order to ensure that they are aligned with learning standards and are accurate, valid, reliable indicators of student learning.

Commendation:

The Team commends the staff for their extensive use of student self-assessments, for engaging them in the development of assessment criteria and allowing them to become more responsible for their own learning.

2.22 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.22 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The library has a sufficient collection of fiction and non-fiction to support the School's silent reading program and curriculum-based research. Resources are catalogued using library management system software and all students are registered in the system. Additional resources are purchased through a grant from the main school. The staff makes the decisions



regarding the purchase of additional resources. A librarian is provided by the host school to manage the collection and support students.

The School does not appear to have a clear set of criteria for resource acquisition and use that addresses issues such as relevance to the curriculum, developmental and age appropriateness, effective instructional and technical design, copyright and cultural sensitivity. It is suggested that the School enlist the help of CBCIS to develop a policy for use by all of its BC programs.

A computer lab is available for use and Wi-Fi is available throughout the campus, Reliability is sometimes an issue. Students are encouraged to use their own devices in classes.

The School has a good textbook collection. Online resources are increasingly being used by staff and students to address learning standards.

2.23 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team reviewed a sampling of report cards from the previous year. The School uses the TESS student information system. The Team noted that report cards were missing 1) attendance, 2) tardiness and 3) a scale of letter grades and percentages. The Principal has provided assurances that this will be corrected at the first possible opportunity. In anticipation of this correction, progress reporting will meet requirements.

The School issues two formal and one informal report each semester. Parent/teacher/student conferences occur after the first formal report each semester. Attendance and achievement are closely monitored by the Chinese teachers who communicate with parents regularly.

The content of a sampling of report card comments was reviewed. The Team noted improvements to the quality of the anecdotal comments since previous inspections. There was more evidence of comments that were more meaningful, more prescriptive, and more specific in terms of what a student is able to do and in what areas they need to improve.

The Team was also provided with a sample of recently produced comments provided by CBCIS which are available for use for future report cards. The Team is of the opinion that there is room for improvement.



2.24 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirmed that the parent/student handbook meets the requirements as outlined in the inspection catalogue. The handbook is also updated annually and has been translated into Mandarin for the benefit of parents.

2.25 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The teacher handbook has been updated for the 2019/20 school year and the Team confirms that it meets requirements.

Policies for the evaluation of teachers are in place. Criteria for teacher evaluation are provided in the form of a checklist, with room for appropriate commentary.

2.26 The School meets the distributed learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.26 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

The School offers three courses through distributed learning – Chemistry 12 (9 students) Calculus 12 (16 students) and Biology 12 (3 students). Global Education BC is the service provider. Onsite assistance is provided by two BC teachers.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Canada British Columbia International School - Changchun for:

- Its very high graduation rate (100%) and successful placement of 77% of them in Canadian post-secondary institutions.
- The network of support that it provides to the School and other schools within the CBCIS system by the Owner/Operator. This includes, but is not limited to professional development opportunities, archived curriculum planning and lesson ideas, and networking opportunities for professional staff, and post-secondary advisement for students.
- The highly supportive role that the Principal plays in providing instructional leadership to his staff and for striving to do whatever he can to ensure that they have what they need to do their best work.
- The resourcefulness, thoughtfulness, creativity and innovation that staff have demonstrated in providing a student-centred approach to implementing the new curriculum.
- The thoughtful planning for instruction by staff. The learning experiences in which they engage their students are rich and varied and allow students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.
- The extensive use of student self-assessments used by staff, for engaging students in the development of assessment criteria and allowing them to become more responsible for their own learning.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education that the British Columbia education program offered at Canada British Columbia International School - Changchun continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

