

# Certification Inspection Report

## BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

*at*

CANADA BRITISH COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS - CHANGCHUN

CHANGCHUN, JILIN PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

On November 4-5, 2020, an online certification inspection was completed on Canada British Columbia International Schools - Changchun (CBCIS-CC) in Changchun, Jilin Province, People's Republic of China, referred to as the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine whether the requirements for the British Columbia (BC) education program have been met, according to the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*. The inspection team (the Team), appointed by the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Alan Schroeder and Peter Drescher (Chair). The inspection was conducted virtually over a two-day period.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of thirteen students in grade 12. The School is in its eleventh 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 CBCIS Superintendent, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal, BC teachers, the Deputy Director of the International Division, International Programs Advisor, and several grade 12 students.

The Owner/Operator, Sunny Bai, CEO of Beijing Kezhi Times International Consulting, 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 centre 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 centred on the student.*

Students graduating from the program obtain a BC Dogwood Diploma-

During the past two years, the Jilin Province education authorities have not permitted the intake of new students. This has affected all international programs in the Province. As a result, the School only has a small cohort of thirteen Grade 12 students, and, unless circumstances change in a timely manner, this could be the final year of the BC program in Changchun.

The Team would like to thank Canada British Columbia International Schools - Changchun for its 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 Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment:</p> <p>There were no requirements contained in the previous inspection report.</p> <p>The School and CBCIS had taken action on three of the four suggestions in the previous report. The fourth, pertaining to developing a marketing plan for the School was put on hold as the School was not permitted to enrol new students for this school year.</p>			



**BUSINESS PLAN 1.0**

<b>The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>The BC program has a current enrolment of thirteen students, all of whom are in grade 12. The small enrolment is the result of restrictions that the provincial Development and Reform Commission and Department of Education have placed on the recruitment of new students into international programs province-wide over the past two years. In 2018/19, prior to recruitment restrictions, the School had an enrolment of 55 students. The provincial Department of Education has not yet provided guidance regarding student recruitment for the 2021/22 school year although BC program stakeholders comment that based on annual practice, guidance could come in April or May 2021. Given the lack of clarity from the provincial Department of Education, the School has not committed resources to developing a growth plan beyond the current school year.</p> <p>BC program staff indicated that a decision as late as April 2021 would leave enough time to plan and prepare for the 2021/22 school year.</p> <p>This year, the Principal, the Advisor to the International Director and the teaching staff have made it a high priority to ensure that the remaining thirteen grade 12 students in the School make a smooth transition to the next stage of their educational journey. They are doing everything they can to ensure that these students have a successful year, are well positioned to make informed choices regarding their post-secondary plans and their parents are well informed of the educational pathways open to them. The School is to be commended for its efforts.</p>		
<p><b>Commendation:</b></p> <p>The School is commended for its efforts to ensure that its thirteen grade 12 students have a successful year, are well positioned to make informed choices regarding their post-secondary plans and their parents are well informed of the educational pathways open to them.</p>		



## INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

<b>2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement).</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Owner/Operator meets the requirements set forth in the Agreement.</p> <p>The Owner/Operator owns a system of six BC offshore schools in China, under the Canada British Columbia International Schools (CBCIS) brand, and an independent school in Vancouver.</p> <p>The Owner/Operator employs a BC-based superintendent that is responsible for supporting system schools and teachers with curriculum implementation, professional development and program administration. The Team appreciated the opportunity to meet with the superintendent during this inspection.</p>		

<b>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.</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Team verified that the School possesses a letter dated May 28, 2018 from the Changchun Education Bureau that authorizes the operation of the BC Offshore School Program on the premises of Changchun Shiyi High School until July 15, 2021.</p>		

<b>2.04-2.05 The School meets local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC program.</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Team verified that the facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC program.</p> <p>The Team reviewed a Fire Acceptance Document issued to the host school by the Fire Brigade of Luyuan District dated January 16, 2017, a “Food Business License” issued by the Changchun Food and Drug Administration Luyuan District Branch with validity until March 26,</p>		



2022 and an Institution Legal Person Certificate issued to the host school with validity until November 2, 2022.

The School's emergency response manual, prepared by the CBCIS system, is extensive and contains procedures for a variety of incidents and emergencies. The Team also reviewed a plan for temporary or permanent closure of the School in case of fire, earthquake, and other security related issues. It has been vetted by the Offshore School Representative for accuracy and functionality.

The School conducts four emergency drills each school year with a focus on fire, earthquake, emergency evacuation and accidents. The first drill is scheduled for November 13, 2020.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the host school has created a detailed Emergency Plan for COVID-19 Prevention and Control Work. The plan has been translated into English for the benefit of the BC program.

The BC program is located on the fifth floor of the host school's administrative building. The BC program has five classrooms, two computer labs equipped with 72 computers, four office areas for staff members, a library, a large multifunction theatre room that seats 150 people and two open areas that are popular among students for formal and informal collaboration.

**2.06 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The Owner/Operator must appoint an individual to act as offshore school representative. This individual must be confirmed by the province and must meet all of the requirements set out in section 14 of the Agreement.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Offshore School Representative (OSR) is an experienced educator and administrator and has been an OSR in BC offshore schools for many years.

He meets the requirements and responsibilities as described in section 14 of the Agreement. He 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.

The Team examined the OSR's job description and confirms that it meets the duties outlined in the Agreement including that he legally represents the Owner/Operator in dealings with the Ministry in his function as the liaison between the two authorities.

The OSR is also the OSR for five other non-CBCIS BC offshore schools.



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

Requirement  
Met

Requirement  
Partially Met

Requirement  
Not Met

**Comment:**

The Principal of the School is new to the position this year, replacing the previous principal who retired. The Principal has almost 20 years of experience in the BC education system, offshore and in BC, as an educator and administrator at the K-12 and postsecondary levels.

The Team examined the Principal's job description, which is standard among CBCIS schools. It also reviewed the Independent Personal Services Agreement (contract) of the Principal. The Team confirms that both documents satisfy the requirements of section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue.

Despite working remotely, the principal has developed a productive relationship with host school staff and has provided strong support to his teacher colleague and to the School's remaining students as they complete their grade 12 studies and prepare for postsecondary education.

**Commendation:**

The Principal is to be commended for his oversight and support of the School despite having to continue to work remotely. He is also to be commended for developing positive productive working relationships with the onsite staff, for providing strong support to his teacher colleague and supporting the School's remaining students as they complete their grade 12 studies and prepare for the next stage in their education journey.

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

Requirement  
Met

Requirement  
Partially Met

Requirement  
Not Met

**Comment:**

The School meets the requirements for administrative support. Given the limited student enrolment this year, the Principal, currently working remotely from British Columbia, is supported by an onsite BC-certified teacher who performs many of the administrative duties that would commonly be performed by local administrative staff, such as maintaining student files and preparing for graduation assessments. The teacher has expressed interest in developing her administrative skills and appreciates the experience that this additional work provides.



The Deputy Director of the host school's International Division acts as a liaison between the BC program and the host school. She has played an integral role in BC program advocacy in addition to holding responsibilities in areas such as program development and obtaining work and residence permits for the School's foreign staff.

The host school's former international director, who was one of the BC program's founders, remains actively involved as a BC program advocate and advisor to the International Director. He maintains a number of responsibilities in support of the School's day to day operations.

The School is also supported at the system level by a BC-based superintendent of BC programs who provides support in the areas of program administration, curriculum implementation and professional development. The CBCIS system also provides postsecondary advising services to the School's students.

The School meets the required bandwidth standard established by the Ministry of Education.

The School employs the TESS administrative software and school information system to store and transmit school and student data to the Ministry of Education.

**Commendation:**

The Team commends and thanks the host school leaders for their strong commitment and dedication to the School and its students over the 10-year history of the BC program.

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

Requirement  
Met

Requirement  
Partially Met

Requirement  
Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team reviewed a sampling of student records and confirmed the presence of all required elements including BC program registration form, English language entrance assessment results, Permanent Student Record, student and parent consent forms and previous year report cards.



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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

**The Team confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the BC Ministry of Education.**

The Team reviewed a sampling of teacher files and confirmed the presence of all necessary elements including verification of British Columbia teacher certification, employment contract, teacher evaluations, BC Ministry of Education personal information consent form, contact information, work permit and residence permit.

The School employs three teacher assistants. The Team confirmed that each possesses a cleared criminal record check.

Staff are supported through various professional development opportunities provided by the CBCIS system of schools. Teachers at their six schools have access to resources, online professional learning community platforms, and workshops. CBCIS aspires to improve the level of system-wide networking occurring among teachers. The Team fully supports and encourages CBCIS to pursue this aspiration. Its network of schools is staffed by teachers with a wide range of backgrounds and abilities, many without a BC curriculum background, wide-ranging teaching assignments, and many cases where teachers are the only subject-matter specialist in their school. The CBCIS network of schools also has a number of gifted and talented teachers who have much to contribute to the professional growth of their colleagues. The CBCIS system can strengthen the quality of instruction by developing interschool relationships, communities of practice, and networks of job-a-like teachers. A summer orientation and professional development session bringing together all CBCIS professional staff is one possible idea for beginning the process of building professional relationships.

Commendation:

The Team commends the CBCIS system for supporting its teachers through various professional development opportunities including but not limited to access to resources, online professional learning community platforms, and workshops.



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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School has fully implemented the new BC curriculum for grades 10 to 12. Course overviews, unit plans, student learning experiences and assessment practices are reflective of the foundational principles of the new curriculum. Staff have demonstrated resourcefulness, creativity and innovation in providing a student-centred approach to implementing the new curriculum. The core competencies are an intentional part of the program. The competencies are implicitly embedded in many of the learning activities experienced by students. The Team interviewed several grade 12 students who were genuinely appreciative of their learning experiences over the past three years and indicated that they believed their development of communications, thinking, teamwork, and independent study skills will leave them well positioned to experience success in a post-secondary learning environment.

**Commendation:**

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

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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially 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. Since the School has not been permitted to enrol new students for the past two years no entrance assessment has taken place.

Ongoing English language proficiency assessment is naturally embedded in the two grade 12 English Language Arts courses students take during the year.

The Principal reports that ten of the thirteen grade 12 students are progressing well in terms of English language proficiency. The three students who are struggling receive individualized attention from their English teacher who is also the principal, are grouped with more English proficient peers, receive help from the teaching assistant, and are provided extra time for assignments. There is ongoing dialogue between the Principal and the on-site teacher around strategies to help them be successful. Parents are kept up to date about the issues



and are being prepared for the possibility that success at a post-secondary institution will entail spending extra time developing English language proficiency prior to enrolling.

**2.21(a-e) The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 2.21 (a-e) of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

There are no BAA courses or exempted courses taught by locally certified teachers at this time. There have been no requests for credits through equivalency or challenge.

**2.21(f-g) The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. (e) of the Agreement; namely, that all BC program courses offered in the School meet or exceed the ministry learning outcomes/learning standards identified in the educational program guides for each course.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team reviewed course outlines, and unit plans. Each course has an overview and unit plans that include content, teaching/learning 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. It was evident that students are able to demonstrate their learning in multiple ways, engage in critical thinking and self-reflection, and practise multiple forms of communication. Inquiry-based and project-based learning are significant features.

Many staff of the CBCIS family of schools could benefit from the creativity demonstrated by CBCIS-CC staff in designing learning experiences that are interesting, relevant and of value to students. Staff are encouraged to share their expertise with staff at other CBCIS schools.

**Commendation:**

The Team commends staff for their thoughtful and thorough planning for instruction, and the creativity and resourcefulness that they have shown in designing learning experiences that allow students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.



**2.22 The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in section 4.5 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools, including the requirements set out in sections 1.1 to 6, with the exception of s. 4(5)(b), 4 (6), 5 (8)(a) and (d) and s. 5.3 of Ministerial Order 41/91, the Educational Standards Order, enacted under the Independent School Act.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School exceeds the required number of instructional hours. Students complete two English Language Arts courses in their grade 12 year. Although the School is semestered, Career Life Connections is scheduled for the entire year.

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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

There was evidence of the use of both formative and summative assessment practices. Students are able to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways and receive regular and frequent feedback. Students are actively involved in peer and self-assessment. The use of teacher and student developed rubrics for assessment purposes is commonplace.

At the time of the inspection, grade 12 students were preparing to write the provincial Numeracy assessment. Extensive work on vocabulary had been undertaken over the past month. The results of the Literacy and Numeracy assessments for 2019/20 were not known at the time of the inspection. In the previous year, 78% of the students scored 3 or 4 (proficient, extending) on the Numeracy assessment.

The School's graduation rate has historically exceeded the average for all BC offshore, public and independent schools. 100% of the class of 2020 graduated last June. This is the second consecutive year at 100%. Ten of the sixteen students are now enrolled in Ontario, three in Alberta, one in Quebec, and two in the United Kingdom.

Commendation:

The School is to be commended for its graduation rate which has historically exceeded the average for all BC offshore, public and independent schools. It has been 100% for the last two years.



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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially 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. All students are registered in the School's library management system and encouraged to use the collection for research purposes or pleasure reading.

Two computer labs are available for use and Wi-Fi is available throughout the campus, however reliability is sometimes an issue. Students tend to use their own devices as hotspots in classes.

The School's textbook collection is ample. Print resources are reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The superintendent for the CBCIS system works with his schools to prepare an annual order. Online resources are increasingly being used by staff and students to address learning standards.

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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School provides four formal reports. Opportunities for parent/teacher/student interviews follow as needed. At least one informal report is undertaken each semester. A review of a sampling of report cards dated April 2020 indicated that provision was made for including a letter grade scale and attendance / tardiness reporting in response to a suggestion contained in the previous inspection report.

The TESS student management system still appears to ineffectively provide attendance data for report cards. This problem was identified in previous CBCIS inspection reports.



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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team verified that the parent/student handbook meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the inspection catalogue. It contains sections related to student conduct, introduction of School staff, overview of the BC educational program, admission requirements, emergency procedures and parental appeals.

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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team confirmed that the teacher handbook is comprehensive and meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the inspection catalogue.

It is prepared centrally by the CBCIS system and contains content related to professional matters, school organization, assessment and evaluation, and school policies and procedures. It contains details of the system's teacher evaluation procedures as well as staff resolution policy and procedures.

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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Not Applicable

**Comment:**

The School is currently offering two distributed learning courses, Pre-Calculus 12 (17 students) and Chemistry 12 (9 students). It plans to offer Calculus 12 and Physics 12 and/or Biology 12 in the second semester. All courses are provided through the approved service provider Global Education. The Team obtained instructor-specific course outlines for Pre-Calculus 12 and Chemistry 12 and determined that they are appropriate matches to the BC curriculum.

A BC-certified teacher works with one Chinese instructor to provide onsite supervision of the distributed learning classes.



Equivalency reviews of distributed learning courses have become a requirement for the 2020/21 school year. It is suggested that the School work with the superintendent of CBCIS schools to develop an equivalency policy that provides guidance and direction to its schools in undertaking a review of all distributed learning courses to ensure that there is an appropriate match to the BC curriculum.

## CONCLUSION

### Commendations

**The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff, CBCIS superintendent and Offshore School Representative of Canada British Columbia School - Changchun for:**

- ensuring that the current thirteen grade 12 students, the only cohort remaining in the School at this time, have a successful year, are well positioned to make informed choices regarding their post-secondary plans and their parents are well informed of the educational pathways open to them.
- the oversight and support of the School demonstrated by the Principal despite having to continue to work remotely. He is also to be commended for developing positive productive working relationships with the onsite staff, for providing strong support to his teacher colleague and supporting the School's remaining students as they complete their grade 12 studies and prepare for the next stage in their education journey.
- the resourcefulness, creativity and innovation that staff have demonstrated in providing a student-centred approach to implementing the new curriculum
- the thoughtful and thorough planning for instruction provided by staff, and the creativity and resourcefulness that they have shown in designing learning experiences that allow students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.
- the School's high graduation rate which has historically exceeded the average for all BC offshore, public and independent schools. It has been 100% for the last two years.
- providing support across the CBCIS network of schools through various professional development opportunities for teachers including but not limited to access to resources, online professional learning community platforms, and workshops.

### **The Inspection Team also wishes to recognize**

The host school, Vice-Director of International Programs, International Programs Advisor and the Chinese staff associated with the BC program. They have been most helpful and accommodating during these pandemic-fueled challenging times. Their efforts to persuade the higher education authorities of the BC program's value and its desire to continue to serve students is also appreciated. They are highly commended for their support. The Team



also commends and thanks the host school leaders for their strong commitment and dedication to the School and its students over the 11-year history of the BC program.

### **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 Schools - Changchun continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.**

