

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

SHANGHAI UNITED INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – JIAO KE SECONDARY

MINHANG DISTRICT, SHANGHAI

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 7-8, 2016

INTRODUCTION

On November 7-8, 2016, a Certification Inspection was completed on Shanghai United International School – Jiao Ke Secondary (SUIS), in Minhang District, Shanghai, People's Republic of China, termed 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 Director of International Education (the Director), British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement)*, consisted of Dr. Laurie Anderson (Chair) and Ms. Karine Veldhoen.

The School's B.C. Program has an enrolment of 292 students, in Grades 9-12. The entire School, which houses the B.C. Program, enrolls 728 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 the administration of the Chinese school.

The Owner/Operator, Xiehe Education Group, is responsible for the B.C. Program. The Xiehe Education Group's "East meets West" philosophy is reflected in the diversity of programs offered. In addition to the B.C. Program, there is an IB Primary and Secondary Program, a British National Curriculum Program, a K-12 American AP Program and over 30 Kindergarten Programs in Shanghai and other cities in China.

The B.C. Program's philosophy is to provide students with an "East meets West" educational program, a combination of the B.C. and Chinese curricula. The primary goal of the School is to "provide students with a world class education leading to post-secondary studies."



The Team would like to thank Shanghai United International School for its hospitality, 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
<p>Comment:</p> <p>There were no requirements in the previous report (2014/2015) and the school was approved for biennial inspection in 2015/2016.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Owner/Operator has submitted a complete Business Plan to the B.C. Ministry of Education.</p>
<p>Commendation: The Team commends the School for developing a long term plan for school growth. The School is also commended for its practice of exit interviews with students as a valuable source of information to inform future program refinement.</p>

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).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Team confirmed that School meets all the criteria outlined in the Agreement.</p>



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 complies with local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations. The School has detailed communications plans and evacuation procedures in place for monthly fire drills, as well as emergency protocols in the event of extreme air pollution.

The multi-story campus is situated in the residential area of Minhang District, Shanghai. The School has full access to the shared indoor and outdoor facilities, including a new covered outdoor recreation area, textiles lab, new biology and physics labs, a new weight and fitness room, an all season playing field and running track, and expanded art and dance spaces.

The School has fast and reliable WiFi for student learning and administrative purposes, a newly acquired and extensively used 3-D printer in the library, strategically designed teacher preparation areas that foster peer collaboration, and a well designed layout conducive to safe student movement and ease of access.

Commendation:

The School is commended for its extensive educational facilities, the new additions and the seamless shared usage of the multi-program campus.

ADMINISTRATION 3.0

3.2 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The Owner/Operator may 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 Owner/Operator appointed the outgoing School Principal as the Offshore School Representative (OSR) in February. The OSR meets all the requirements set out by the Province in the B.C. Global Education Program Operating Manual for Offshore Schools.

Commendation:

The Owner/Operator is commended for hiring the outgoing School Principal as the OSR to ensure a smooth transition in school leadership and continuity in administrative functions.



3.3 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in Section 3.3 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School Principal appointed in February is an experienced B.C. secondary school principal, and meets the requirements outlined in Section 3.3 of the Inspection Catalogue.

Commendation:

The Team commends the School for providing a period of overlap between the incoming and outgoing principals, ensuring an effective, seamless transfer of authority.

3.4 The School meets the Administrative Support requirements as outlined in Section 3.4 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School has a full-time Principal, a 0.75 FTE Vice-Principal with a partial teaching assignment, and a full time administrative assistant/confidential secretary. The School uses the TESS software program for digital data storage and transfer to the Ministry.

3.5 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in Section 3.5 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the student record requirements as outlined in Section 3.5 of the Inspection Catalogue.

3.6 The School meets the Teacher Certification requirements as outlined in Section 3.6 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

There are 23 teachers on staff, including the Principal. All of the teachers hold valid Certificates of Qualifications from the B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch.

The Team confirms that all Authorized Persons under The Agreement possess valid and



current certification under the B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 4.0

4.1 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation as outlined in Section 4.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School's four Grade 9 teachers meet regularly to plan thematically across subjects taught. The School's five professional development days for all teachers were focused on exploring and planning ways to implement the redesigned curricula.

Commendation:

The School has established the pre-conditions for effective implementation of the revised B.C. program:

- a) a healthy, positive, collegial teaching and learning environment;
- b) cross-grade, inter-disciplinary curricular planning;
- c) school-wide application of student self-assessment (focused on English language acquisition and improvement);
- d) adequate learning resources and well-equipped facilities,
- e) strong, engaged support from the School Principal, and
- f) a strong, shared commitment to providing their students with as many opportunities and pathways as possible to be successful in their lives after graduation.

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's approach to English language assessment and acquisition is thorough and consistently applied. The entry examination includes written and oral components, and the Principal and staff make the final decision on eligibility to enter the B.C. Program. Students close to but under the acceptable standard of language proficiency have the opportunity to re-apply after taking the summer English immersion camp.

The School uses the Grade 9 year program to develop students' English language proficiency, with an emphasis on vocabulary development, writing and speaking skills and elimination of common second language learning errors. The School conducts School-Wide Writes twice a



year, and teachers work closely with the learning assistance specialist to identify and work with students requiring additional support. As a summative assessment, students are invited to complete a locally developed language self-assessment, offering an opportunity for self-reflection on their own progress. Class sizes are capped at 20 for the earlier grades to provide students with the attention, practice and instructional support they need. The teachers share common strategies to support English language development across grades and subjects.

Commendation:

The Team commends the School for its comprehensive, intentional and consistent emphasis on developing students' ability to speak English. The Team commends the School for the use of multiple strategies to accomplish this shared goal, including the "English Progress Tracker" system.

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 School offers students three BAA courses: Leadership 12, YPR1A (taught during the summer program at Maple Ridge SD) and Psychology 11. The School has two approved exempt courses taught: Chinese History 11, and Local Culture 12.

Commendation: The School is commended for introducing innovative courses such as Psychology 11.

4.4 The School meets the course overview / course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I (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 meets the course overview/course planning requirements set out in the Inspection Catalogue. The teachers' preparation areas are physically structured to facilitate cross-grade thematic planning and shared assessment and evaluation strategies. The Grade 9 teachers (4) have begun exploring the revised B.C. curriculum and how best to implement it in their context. The focus of the professional development activities for the entire staff has been the redesigned B.C. curriculum, including workshops led by the OSR.



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), of Ministerial Order 41/91, the Educational Standards Order, enacted under the Independent School Act.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School is in session six hours a day for 185 days of instruction, substantially exceeding the formal instructional time allotments required by the Educational Standards Order.

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 has made assessment and evaluation a primary focus for the past two years. Lesson and unit plans have multiple, explicit forms of assessment (rubrics, writing scales, School-Wide Writes, school-wide use of formative and summative assessment strategies, regular reviews of grading practices).

The discrepancy between school and provincial exam results is well within acceptable limits, with SUIS students often exceeding provincial averages.

Commendation:

The Team commends the School for the school-wide emphasis on student assessment and evaluation. The School is commended for allocating time, staff and learning resources to support this primary instructional goal.

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's library has an extensive, inventory of fiction and non-fiction learning resources available for students. The full time librarian has created a "learning commons" environment that encourages students to read and study in the space. New students have a library orientation that exposes them to the eclectic collection of fiction (all genres) and non-fiction (from contemporary magazines to classic texts). The School's 3-D printer resides in the library and student creations are on display. The School has three well equipped computer libraries



and School-wide WiFi with strong connectivity available to students, faculty and guests.

Commendation:

The School is commended for providing students with access to an extensive suite of learning resources. The Team also commends the School for having such a strong technology program, using social media (WeChat) for instructional and reporting purposes, and supporting the technology infrastructure with three full time technicians.

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 School has four reporting periods throughout the school year with two interim reports as well. The School conducts three way parent-teacher-student conferences that include the Chinese school home teacher for translation.

Commendation:

The School is commended for its strategic, ongoing focus on communication with parents. Beyond formal reporting requirements, the school uses regular telephone conversations, We-Chat or QQ to both report to parents and systematically engage them in their children's continuous learning and development. The Chinese language support teachers play a critical role in communicating with parents regarding their children's learning.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT 5.0

5.1 The School meets the Parent / Student Handbook requirements as outlined in Section 5.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the school has a dual language parent/student handbook.



5.2 The School meets the Teacher Handbook requirements as outlined in Section 5.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the Teacher Handbook requirements as outlined in Section 5.2 of the Inspection Catalogue. This comprehensive Teacher Handbook contains detailed, transparent policies regarding roles and responsibilities, appeals and dispute resolution procedures, and teacher and principal evaluation procedures.

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 currently offer Distributed Learning courses.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Shanghai United International School – Jiao Ke Secondary for:

- The development of a long term plan for school growth as well as for its practice for exit interviews with students as a valuable source of information to inform the future program refinement.
- The enhanced facilities conducive to increased learning opportunities for students.
- Hiring the outgoing School Principal as the OSR to ensure a smooth transition in school leadership and continuity in administration functions.
- Providing a period of overlap between the incoming and outgoing Principals, ensuring an effective, seamless transfer of authority.
- Establishing the pre-conditions for effective implementation of the redesigned B.C. curriculum:
 - a) a healthy, positive, collegial teaching and learning environment;
 - b) cross-grade, inter-disciplinary curricular planning;



- c) school-wide application of student self-assessment (focused on English language acquisition and improvement);
 - d) adequate learning resources and well-equipped facilities,
 - e) strong, engaged support from the School Principal, and
 - f) a strong, shared commitment to providing their students with as many opportunities and pathways as possible to be successful in their lives after graduation.
- Its comprehensive, intentional and consistent emphasis on developing students' ability to speak English and the use of multiple strategies to accomplish this shared goal.
 - For the school-wide emphasis on student assessment and evaluation as well as for allocating time, staff and learning resources to support this primary individual goal.
 - For providing students with access to an extensive suite of learning resources.
 - For having such a strong technology program, using social media (WeChat) for instructional and reporting purposes, and supporting the technology infrastructure with three full-time technicians.
 - Its strategic, ongoing focus on communication with parents.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Director of International Education that the British Columbia Program offered at Shanghai United International School – Jiao Ke Secondary, be recognized as a British Columbia Certified Program.

