

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

NANJING FOREIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOL – BRITISH COLUMBIA ACADEMY

NANJING, JIANGSU PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

OCTOBER 24-26, 2016

INTRODUCTION

On October 24-26, 2016, a Certification Inspection was completed on Nanjing Foreign Language School – British Columbia Academy (NFLS-BCA) in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, 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 Shawn Chisholm, Sheila Johnsrude and Hugh Gloster (Team Chair).

The School's B.C. Program has an enrolment of 319 students, in Grades 10, 11 and 12. The B.C. Offshore School is housed within the larger Nanjing Foreign Language School (NFLS), a highly regarded Chinese public school, which also operates other international programs. The entire School which houses the B.C. Program enrolls approximately 3,000 students. The School operates within an 'open boundary' where students from the surrounding area compete for the opportunity to attend. There is also a dormitory on the main campus where approximately 10 students from NFLS-BCA stay.

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 Principal, Vice-Principal in charge of International Programs, Coordinator of the Chinese Staff, Offshore School Representative (OSR), B.C. Principal, B.C. Teachers and appropriate support staff.

The Owner/Operator, Nanjing Foreign Language School, is responsible for the B.C. Program. It also operates an International Baccalaureate (IB) Program as well as an A Levels Program. NFLS enrolls students from Grades 7 to 12 on two campuses. The main campus that houses the B.C.



Academy has grades 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12. The grade 9 students, along with those involved in the IB Program, attend school on a campus that is nearby.

The B.C. Program’s philosophy, objectives and special features are described in the School Profile document that states:

“We concentrate both on academic knowledge, as well as on values and leadership. We offer an education that includes social development and citizenship. BCA goes to great efforts to blend the traditional values of a Chinese education system with the values and methods of a Canadian education.” The B.C. Academy has also stated that that they will strive for the vision of “academic excellence within the realm of global citizenship”.

The school has a relationship with Mount Baker Secondary School in Cranbrook, B.C. that has already resulted in cooperation between the two schools. Along with the sharing of staff, other ‘twinning’ opportunities are being considered for the future.

The Team would like to thank NFLS-BCA 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:

There were no requirements that had to be addressed from the unannounced inspection that took place in April, 2016. Suggestions were made during the inspection in October 2014, and there was evidence that several of these had been acted upon.

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:

NFLS-BCA is a destination school for many of the students in the Nanjing area, as it has the reputation of being the top public school in the region. Every year far more students apply to enter the B.C. Academy than there is capacity to accommodate. The current intake is approximately 100 students per grade, and there are no immediate plans to expand.

Based on the demand for the program, NFLS-BCA does not have to launch a recruiting campaign to sustain enrolment. However, the school does produce materials such as the



School Profile brochure that articulate the advantages students can enjoy by engaging in the program. These include the Academic Program, positive exam results, co-curricular activities and success of the graduates in gaining entrance to prestigious universities. The school also uses the website, promotional materials, open house/information sessions and education fairs as ways to promote itself.

For teachers, the school offers very good working conditions, a competitive benefit package and a desirable location, all of which help with recruitment and retention. The school has enjoyed a retention rate in the past that exceeds what is observed in many offshore schools.

Commendation:

The school is commended for the excellent reputation it has earned with parents and students as well as amongst teachers working in international schools.

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:

Nanjing Foreign Language School has received authorization from the Province of British Columbia to operate the B.C. Academy as a Certified British Columbia Program. The School has continued to meet the requirements under the B.C. Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement.

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:

NFLS has an original 2003 certificate from the Nanjing Education Office giving permission for the operation of a Canadian Academy. It further confirms that the buildings, environment, security and fire laws all meet the requirements of the Government. The certificate also confirms that the dormitories on campus are in compliance with statutory regulations. A 2015 "Certificate of Public Institution with Legal Person Status" further confirms the authority of NFLS to operate, and a 2014-2017 Cafeteria Operating License from the Nanjing District Food and Drug Administration Bureau is also on file.



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:

NFLS-BCA has appointed Mr. Bill Gook as Offshore School Representative. A 2012 letter is on file from the MoE confirming that Mr. Gook meets the qualifications for this role. During the inspection, evidence was noted of Mr. Gook's involvement in many of the functions that may be performed by an OSR as outlined in the 2016/2017 Operating Manual for Offshore Schools. Most recently this has included assisting with the hiring of a new principal and qualified teaching staff as well as with professional development.

Mr. Gook was present for the inspection process and assisted the Team in completing their duties.

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 Principal is in his first year in the assignment at NFLS-BCA, following the retirement of his predecessor. The current Principal has 35 years of experience as an educator working in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 system in B.C. He has spent the past six years as an administrator in a secondary school in B.C. and is very familiar with both the current and future directions of the B.C. Ministry of Education. He has also been working on curriculum committees that have been examining the redesigned curriculum in B.C. and is able to bring that expertise to NFLS-BCA.

In the relatively short time the Principal has been at NFLS-BCA he has had a positive impact on the learning environment. He has built very good relationships with the Chinese leadership team from NFLS and has been working cooperatively with them to provide the best possible educational program for the students.

The Principal also has the recent experience of moving to China and this has motivated him to start developing a recruiting handbook that will help new teachers make a smooth transition to teaching assignments in a new school, city and country.



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 Team acknowledges the extent and quality of the administrative support in place at NFLS-BCA. The school employs a veteran B.C. administrator who is in his first year as principal of a B.C. offshore program and is well supported by a highly experienced Offshore School Representative. The school administration is supported by a liaison officer, 2 office coordinators, a college counsellor and a student affairs supervisor. The Principal indicates there are future plans to hire an additional college counsellor to better support student and parent demands for counselling services.

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:

During the inspection, the Team reviewed both the current student files and the files of students who have graduated from the school. All requirements contained within the Inspection Catalogue were being met.

Commendation:

The office staff is commended for the work they are doing to maintain the files in an orderly and sequenced manner, making them easy to access and review.

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:

The Team confirms that all Authorized Persons under The Agreement possess valid and current certification under the B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch.

Commendation:

The Principal and Offshore School Representative are commended for working with a B.C. school district to arrange for a teacher to get a one-semester leave to backfill a B.C. Academy teacher who was on maternity leave.



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:

During the Team's discussions with NFLS-BCA teaching staff it was determined that the redesigned curriculum is being reviewed at the department level. Regularly scheduled meetings have provided department staff with the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues to review and identify the changes that will occur with the implementation of the redesigned curriculum. Many teachers are incorporating aspects of the redesigned curriculum in their planning for the remainder of the school year.

4.2 The School meets the requirements for English Language Assessment and Acquisition as outlined in Section 4.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The school administers a locally developed assessment of student language skills prior to admission in Grade 10. The test includes sections on grammar, writing, and reading; one portion being a multiple choice format, the other a written essay. Completed placement tests are placed in each student file. The Team noted that no evidence of the Principal's approval of student placements appeared in the student file.

It was noted that entry into the School is very competitive and typically students entering the B.C. Academy have well developed English language skills. Students do receive additional instructional time beyond what is required. A module called Speech Communication (SPC) is part of the English program. The SPC module serves to create smaller cohorts so there is more personal instructional time provided for students. Teachers work collaboratively to develop course outlines and unit plans that reflect both the needs of English Language Learners and the requirements of the curriculum.

The school also provides many co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities, such as Student Council, for students to interact in English and to practice their language skills in practical settings. The Team noted that English is spoken at an advanced level, and students interact freely in English with peers and their teachers both in and out of class. At a meeting with members of the Student Council, the students spoke articulately about their role in the school and stated that they appreciate the close, respectful relationship between students and staff at NFLS-BCA. The Team believed that this close relationship results largely from the amount of time and attention teachers devote to clubs and activities, and the fact that students



experience success in the language-rich environment provided.

Commendations:

- The staff is commended for the effort they devote to clubs, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- The staff is commended for building close relationships with their students.

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 NFLS-BCA offers sufficient course credit options for students to graduate from the B.C. program.

Mandarin 10, 11 and 12 and Physical Education 11 and 12 are courses formally exempted from requiring a B.C. certified teacher. The Team confirmed that teachers certified by the local authority are assigned to these courses.

NFLS-BCA does not offer Board/Authority Authorized courses and does not currently offer course credits through equivalency and course challenge.

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 Team visited the classrooms of all NFLS-BCA teachers to review course plans, student work and student assessments. The teacher plans meet or exceed the Ministry requirements for course planning and are based, for the most part, on the present 2004 Graduation Program curriculum. Course overviews primarily follow a traditional format; identifying prescribed learning outcomes, learning and assessment activities (formative and summative) and a timeline for content presentation.

The Team also observed some course plans that incorporate curriculum content and pedagogy that reflect the redesigned B.C. curriculum. Some NFLS-BCA staff are experimenting with inquiry and project-based learning activities and the Team observed plans for peer assessments and self-reflective student journal responses.



A review of sample student workbooks revealed an appropriate volume of work for this point in the school year and consistent evidence of formative assessment.

Commendation:

The Team acknowledges the collaborative work the staff is doing at the department level to enhance student learning.

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 NFLS-BCA daily schedule provides for 7 hours of instruction and therefore, the School surpasses the instructional time allotment requirements established by the B.C. Ministry of Education.

All Grade 10 to 12 NFLS-BCA students meet their Daily Physical Activity requirement as they are enrolled in Physical Education classes in each grade for the entire school year.

Many of the NFLS-BCA staff members are experienced offshore educators and provide support for teachers with less experience teaching English language learners. The School provides their new staff with orientation activities and, at the department level, there are ongoing discussions that promote current best practices for supporting their students.

Commendation:

NFLS-BCA is commended for the additional instructional time they provide for their students.

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 successfully ensured that school assessment results correlate with those from Provincial Examinations. There has been noticeable improvement in the correlation between the course and exam mark in English 12, as the difference has been lowered substantially over the past two years. The results in Science 10, Foundations of Math and Pre-Calculus 10, and Social Studies 11 have also been very good.



The Team noted that the teachers use both formative tools, such as rubrics and peer assessments, and summative tools, such as performance products and tests as part of their assessment practice. B.C. Performance Standards appear in all course outlines. Teachers reported that they use a regular feedback cycle at department meetings to examine past practice and develop new strategies to better meet student needs when planning for a new year.

Commendation:

- The school is commended for taking steps to improve the correlation between school assessments and Provincial examination marks in English 12, as well as for very good results in other provincially examinable courses.
- The staff is to be commended for their excellent work in employing varied instructional strategies to enable their students to succeed.

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 provides sufficient resources to support the B.C. Program. The library contains 4 computer stations, tables for small group work and a comfortable reading area. A good variety of periodicals is on display. There is a collection of single copy teacher resources and sets of textbooks for all subjects, as well as some reading material for students. Reading materials for English courses are plentiful and varied.

Physical facilities include a large three-story gymnasium that encompasses a dance/gymnastics room, ping pong tables, and a full-sized sports gym with hardwood floor. An outdoor track, playing field and sports courts are situated in a large courtyard that is sheltered and reasonably quiet during class time. The larger NFLS school shares science labs which are modern and well resourced, and provided with local lab assistants to organize equipment setup and cleanup.

The Team also noted that substantial efforts have been made to beautify the campus, organize common space more efficiently, create a new teacher preparation room, and provide new lockers for student use.

Commendation:

The school authority and school principal are commended for their efforts to provide excellent learning resources and facilities to support the B.C. Program.



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 sends Progress Reports home at mid-term and semester end, with final marks reported in all subjects at the end of June. As necessary, teachers also send interim reports with anecdotal comments and meet with students who are not being successful. Parent-teacher interviews are conducted three times per year in conjunction with the distribution of Progress Reports. The Team noted that the Inspection catalogue described Progress Reports as including attitude and classwork, as well as comments translated into Mandarin. However, report cards on file in the office did not contain this information.

Requirement:

The student report card must be expanded to report to parents/guardians the achievement of their children in accordance with Section 1-8 of the Ministerial Order 191/94. Further, the report must include the Provincial examination results where applicable.

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 School does have a Parent/Student Handbook that is provided to parents electronically following an information session. It has been updated for 2016-2017 to include the names and contact information for key personnel. It meets the requirement for having a section on appeals and resolving disputes, as well as sections dealing with topics such as admissions, school rules and student discipline. The current handbook also has sections that are translated from English into Mandarin to assist communication with parents.

Students have also been provided with a Student Planner that reinforces the school rules.



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 Teacher Handbook for the current year lists all staff members and provides a wide variety of information for working at the school and living in the larger community. Advice for navigating the process of finding an apartment, routines around pay periods or acquiring supplies, policies for professional conduct, grievance procedures, and rules of confidentiality are all included. Overall the Handbook is a very good resource for staff.

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:

NFLS-BCA does not offer any credits through Distributed Learning courses.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Nanjing Foreign Language School – B.C. Academy for:

- The excellent reputation it has earned with parents and students as well as amongst teachers working in international schools.
- The work the office staff are doing to maintain the files in an orderly and sequenced manner, making them easy to access and review.
- The efforts made by the Principal and Offshore School Representative to work with a B.C. school district to arrange for a teacher to get a one-semester leave to backfill a B.C. Academy teacher who was on maternity leave.
- The effort made by staff to support clubs, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- The close relationships established between staff and students.
- The collaborative work the staff is doing at the department level to enhance student learning.
- The additional instructional time NFLS - BCA provides for their students.



- Taking steps to improve the correlation between school assessments and Provincial examination marks in English 12, as well as for very good results in other provincially examinable courses.
- The excellent work they are doing in employing varied instructional strategies to enable their students to succeed.
- The efforts to provide excellent learning resources and facilities to support the B.C. Program.

Requirements

In order to meet the requirements of the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*, the Team requires that by January 31, 2017, the Owner/Operator provide the Director of International Education, responsible for B.C. Global Education Program - Offshore Schools, with a plan and timeline for proposed implementation of the following items:

- The student report card must be expanded to report to parents/guardians the achievement of their children in accordance with Section 1-8 of the Ministerial Order 191/94. Further, the report must include the Provincial examination results where applicable.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Director of International Education that, contingent on responding to the above requirements to the satisfaction of the Director of International Education, the British Columbia Program offered at Nanjing Foreign Language School – B.C. Academy be recognized as a British Columbia Certified Program.

