

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - SHANGHAI

SHANGHAI

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 2-3, 2017

INTRODUCTION

On November 2-3, a certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf International School – Shanghai in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, termed MLIS-S or the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine whether the requirements for the British Columbia (B.C.) education program have been met, according to the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*. The inspection team (the Team), appointed by the Executive Director of International Education, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Dr. Laurie Anderson (Chair) and Shawn Chisholm.

The School's B.C. program has an enrolment of 561 students, in grades 10-12. The B.C. program is housed within a larger school that contains a middle school with an ELL theme and two preparatory programs, Foundations and Bridging. These programs provide the English language acquisition necessary for entry into the B.C. program. The entire School, which houses the B.C. program, enrolls 660 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 superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, vice-principal, the registrar, the Chinese headmaster and all of the 28 teachers.

The owner/operator, China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited (CMLES) is responsible for the B.C. program. CMLES also operates an ELL program and middle school onsite.



The B.C. program's philosophy, objectives and special features include:

- a) Providing students with the best of educational principles and practises from Western and Eastern traditions;
- b) A strong emphasis on high academic standards within a supportive environment;
- c) A commitment to cultivating global citizenship and awareness in all students;
- d) Providing students with a rich, eclectic and caring learning environment that fosters growth in each child's unique potential, talents and interest;
- e) An academic program that prepares students to entrance into the university of their choice around the world.

The Team would like to thank Maple Leaf International School-Shanghai 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 previous inspection report.

BUSINESS PLAN

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

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School has submitted a business plan to the B.C. Ministry of Education. The business plan is a very comprehensive document, outlining enrolment goals, staff development and retention strategies, overview of operations and the plans for implementation of the new B.C. Education program.



OWNERSHIP AND AGREEMENTS / BUILDING AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE 2.0

2.1 The owner/operator meets all requirements as set forth in the B.C. Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement).

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the owner/operator meets all the requirements of the 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:

The Team confirms that the School adheres to local regulatory standards in the areas of safety, cafeteria and building codes. The School has a very large, well equipped gymnasium complex, extensive outdoor facilities (including volleyball and basketball courts) and rubberized outdoor track.

ADMINISTRATION 3.0

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

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the superintendent of global education for the CMLES system serves as the approved OSR and meets the criteria as set out in the Agreement.

3.2 The principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 3.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The principal meets the requirements as set out in the inspection catalogue. The principal



previously served as the principal of a large secondary school in B.C. before assuming the position at MLIS-S. He demonstrates a sound understanding of the B.C. education system and its current priorities and future directions.

Commendation:

The Team commends the principal for providing strong educational leadership, and for developing a collaborative, learning-focused environment in the School. The principal is also commended for establishing a positive and viable cooperative relationship with the incoming Chinese headmaster.

3.3 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 3.3 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets or exceeds the administrative support requirements of the inspection catalogue, with a full time vice-principal, a 0.5 FTE registrar and two full time secretaries.

The School provides the administrators with a Leadership Development Program (linked with other CMLES schools in the PRC).

3.4 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 3.4 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the student record requirements are fully met as per section 3.4 of the inspection catalogue.

3.5 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in section 3.5 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the teacher certification requirements.

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 outlined in section 4.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

CMLES took advantage of the professional development offered by the Ministry of Education during the summer of 2017 to support their schools' administrators with the implementation of the redesigned B.C. curriculum. At the system level, CMLES has hired an assistant superintendent and employs system coordinators in all subject areas to support staff as they transition to the redesigned B.C. curriculum.

The School introduced an extensive, ongoing professional development program for teachers to support implementation of the B.C.'s redesigned curricula. The MLIS-S campus has scheduled several in-house and system-wide professional development sessions for the 2017 – 2018 school year. Topics to be addressed include project and inquiry based learning, formative and summative assessment, core competencies, and student self-assessment. The school administration facilitates access to Ministry produced webinars and has established a relationship with a B.C. based curriculum expert to provide additional implementation support to the MLIS-S staff.

CMLES has established the "systems coordinators" roles (one in every subject area) to support teachers in the transition from the current and revised B.C. program. The Team witnessed that many of the MLIS-S staff are collaborating with colleagues and experimenting with elements of the redesigned curriculum and meeting to reflect on the successes and challenges they are experiencing.

Commendation:

The Team commends the school administration and staff for their efforts to prepare for the implementation of the B.C. redesigned curriculum.

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:

All MLIS-S teachers receive CMLES-approved English language acquisition training. The School has a designated English language acquisition coordinator that plays a supportive role to all MLIS-S teachers.



All MLIS-S students complete a comprehensive English entrance exam that determines their placement in Foundations, Bridging or a B.C. Graduation program course. Summative English assessments are reviewed each term and determine the supports that will be put in place the following term to support student learning.

All MLIS-S students progress through a sequence of English courses designed to support growth in their language acquisition. Additional supports include weekly tutorial sessions, as well as a Success Room class that is incorporated into the School's block schedule and staffed by a B.C. certified teacher.

Commendation:

The Team commends MLIS-S for assigning sufficient "best practices" instructional resources to promote and support English acquisition for 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:

MLIS-S has policies and maintains records that demonstrate compliance with the Student Graduation and Credit Policy for equivalency and course challenge.

The Team reviewed the documentation indicating Ministry approval of BAA and exempted courses.

BAA courses: Psychology 12, Teacher Assistant 11 and 12 and Canadian Academic Essentials 10.
Exempted courses: Mandarin Chinese 10, 11 and 12 and Chinese Social Studies 10, 11, and 12.

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

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team reviewed all course overviews and teacher day plans. All course overviews follow a CMLES system approved template, which complies with the present Ministry planning documentation requirements. It was also observed that many staff members are experimenting with more student-centered learning activities that facilitate personalized and differentiated learning activities for students.



The Team observed that, in anticipation of the implementation of the redesigned B.C. curriculum, many MLIS-S teachers are working with their students to develop a greater understanding, and value for, student self-assessment. Teachers have created student self-assessment instruments and are incorporating reflective student journaling as part of their assessment practices.

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

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirmed that the school exceeds the minimum time allotments for instructional time.

All MLIS-S B.C. program students participate in daily physical activity that is coordinated by Chinese staff and led by B.C. program 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 Team noted that processes are in place to promote the consistency and validity of student assessments. At the department level, teachers and department leaders regularly meet to review student assessment methods and assessment results to ensure consistency between teachers. There is an annual department level review of the B.C. Performance Standards. Provincial Exam results are reviewed by the department heads and school administration to identify areas of focus.

Formal and interim reports are reviewed at the department level to identify students that may require targeted intervention to improve their level of achievement. The school offers additional student support in weekly tutorials. Students requiring greater support are assigned to the "Success Room" which provides daily support by a B.C. certified teacher.

The CMLES organization promotes the use of both formative and summative assessments with their teachers. The Team witnessed this during their classroom visits and their review of teacher plans. Further professional development on assessment, with particular focus on



student self-assessment, is scheduled for this school year.

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 Team noted that MLIS-S library's physical collection is limited but the CMLES organization continues to allocate resources to increase their print resources. The school has secured an online library resource (ProQuest) that allows MLIS-S students to access a large database for research.

Each MLIS-S student is issued a laptop in grade 10 and the Team observed that these laptops are fully utilized by students and teachers to promote learning.

The school encourages student reading with daily scheduled silent reading and they are adding more print resources that reflect student preferences (graphic novels).

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:

MLIS-S provides four formal reports and four interim reports to parents. Parents also have online access to their child's academic progress through the PowerSchool program. Student formal reports contain letter grades, percentages, work habits and comments. Parent/teacher interviews are scheduled after the first and third formal reports and Chinese counselors provide translation support. The Chinese staff also play an important role throughout the school year as they facilitate communication between Chinese parents and their child's teacher.

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 has comprehensive parent/student handbook in both English and Chinese that



satisfies the requirements set out in Section 5.1 of the inspection catalogue.

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 Team confirms that the School's teacher handbook meets the requirements outlined in section 5.2 of the inspection catalogue.

COURSE ACCREDITED VIA DISTRIBUTED LEARNING 6.0

6.1 The School meets the Distributed Learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and Section 6 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

The School does not offer courses via distributed learning

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the owner/operator, principal and staff of Maple Leaf International School - Shanghai for:

- Providing strong educational leadership, developing a collaborative, learning-focused environment in the School and also for establishing a positive and viable cooperative relationship with the incoming Chinese principal;
- Efforts made to prepare for the implementation of the B.C. redesigned curriculum;
- Assigning sufficient "best practices" instructional resources to promote and support English acquisition for their students;

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of International Education that the British Columbia education program offered at Maple Leaf International School-Shanghai be recognized as a British Columbia-certified School.

