

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

LANZHOU ORIENTAL CANADA SECONDARY SCHOOL

LANZHOU, GANSU PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 23-24, 2020

INTRODUCTION

On November 23-24, 2020, an online certification inspection was completed on Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School (LOCSS) in Lanzhou, Gansu 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 John Churchley and Alan Schroeder (Chair).

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 108 students, in grades 10, 11 and 12. The BC program is housed in the Lanzhou Oriental Education Group. The entire school, which houses the BC program, enrolls 4,100 students.

During their visit to 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 School's Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal, BC teachers, host school principal, international director, support staff and members of the student's council.

The Owner/Operator, Mr. Jerry Zhang of Canada Horizon International Education Incorporated, is responsible for the BC program. Mr. Zhang has an established agreement with the host school owner and principal, Mr. Tang, to operate the BC program on the campus.

The BC program's mission is one in which it strives to develop responsible and educated global citizens, in partnership with its member communities, by providing an environment that expects and encourages respect for each other and the community. It upholds rigorous



academic standards through a variety of learning strategies provided by its faculty and staff. It strives to have all of its students acquire the skills, the knowledge and the work ethic utilizing the core competencies so that they can become contributing members of an evolving society.

The Team would like to thank Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The School had one requirement from the previous inspection, as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The School is required to offer an Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies course each school year in order to provide students with choice as per Graduation Program Order 4 (6).</p> <p>For the 2020/21 school year, the School is offering the Graphic Production 11 course, which satisfies the Applied Design, Skills and Technologies course requirement.</p>			

BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The School has submitted a comprehensive growth plan that incorporates six school goals and measures in the areas of student learning, baseline assessment, ESL teaching strategies, healthy and safe staff and students, and student graduation rate.</p> <p>It has a marketing plan that includes visits to its local feeder schools, of which there are ten, social media and print, radio and television advertising. BC teachers participate in the School's promotions. The School focuses on developing a high-quality education program, as measured by high graduation and university acceptance rates, which it recognizes is key in developing the School's reputation, an integral part of the School's student recruitment process.</p> <p>The School expects to grow its enrolment to a full capacity of 200 students within five years.</p>		



Commendations:

The School is commended for developing a comprehensive school growth plan that focuses on students' educational success and personal wellbeing.

The School is commended for its high graduation rate which has exceeded the average for all BC offshore, public and independent schools over the past four years.

INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0**2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement).**

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirmed that the Owner/Operator meets the requirements set forth in the Agreement.

The Owner/Operator is actively involved with the School. He places high value on developing relationships with BC teachers, students and families. An annual tradition at the beginning of each school year is for him to take the new BC teachers on a tour of the city and its vicinity to support their acclimatization to the community.

The Owner/Operator works closely with the owner/principal of the host school, who is strongly supportive of and keenly interested in the success of the BC program and its students.

2.03 The Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the offshore school, as outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The School is in possession of two documents that, combined, satisfy the requirements:

1. An approval document dated January 4, 2013 issued by the Gansu Provincial Education Department to establish the BC program. This approval is valid indefinitely.
2. A "Private School Running permit of People's Republic of China" issued by the Lanzhou City Bureau of Education with validity until June 16, 2022.



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.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School is mainly comprised of two floors in a building located on the host school campus. It has classrooms, a spacious and well-stocked library, an art room, a music room, a spacious foyer for student collaboration, two computer labs, a chemistry lab and an exercise room. Teacher apartments are located in a high-rise tower adjacent to the School. The BC program has access to a large sports field that includes a running track, bleachers and an outdoor stage, as well as a large auditorium that is used for school assemblies.

The Team reviewed local building, safety and cafeteria codes and permits and confirms that appropriate safety and evacuation plans are in place.

The Team verified that the School has emergency plans in place for fire and earthquake as well as unplanned school closures. Three fire drills and two earthquake drills are planned for 2020/21 with the first drill scheduled for December 17, 2020.

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 administrator with several years' experience as principal in both BC onshore and offshore schools as well as extensive school district leadership experience. The OSR has been serving as the School's OSR since 2015.

The Team reviewed the contract of the OSR and confirmed that all the requirements related to the OSR in the Agreement are in compliance. The OSR actively engages with the program. He communicates frequently with the new BC program principal and typically visits the School once or twice a year although he has been unable to visit the School in 2020 due to pandemic-related travel restrictions.

The Team appreciated the assistance of the OSR before and during the inspection.

The Owner/Operator has also engaged the former principal of the School as a short-term consultant to provide added support to the BC program during the busy fall season and while



teachers slowly return to the school community as travel restrictions are lifted and travel permits issued.

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 is in her first year in this leadership position. She has prior administrative experience serving as vice principal at two other BC offshore schools in China. She also has experience teaching at schools in Canada, China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Greece.

The Principal's goals for the school year centre on supporting students to be successful, that is, by having each student graduate, and on supporting teachers to be the best professionals they can be. She is planning professional development activities in support of the BC curriculum, course planning and assessment.

The Team recognized the collaborative working relationship that the principal has developed with the host school's international director.

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 has an extensive administrative support team that supports the BC program in the areas of school operations, student support, technology, teacher and student visas, post-secondary advising, library services and School website. The administrative staff are conscientious, responsive to the needs of the program and work well with the BC teachers. The Team appreciated their assistance during the inspection.

The School meets the bandwidth standard recommended by the BC Ministry of Education.

TESS is the approved administrative software and school information system that is used to store and transmit school and student data to the BC Ministry of Education.



Commendations:

The School is commended for the strong support of the host school, its leadership and staff associated with the BC program for their commitment to the students and their colleagues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The host school is commended for its commitment to the BC program as demonstrated by the provision of extensive human and learning resources.

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 files and verified the presence of the BC program registration form, English language entrance assessment results, Permanent Student Record, the Ministry's personal information consent form for students and parents updated for 2020/21, 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 reviewed a sampling of teacher files and confirmed the presence of necessary elements in most cases including verification of British Columbia teacher certification, employment contract, teacher evaluations, contact information, work permit and residence permit. The files also contained the Ministry's personal information consent form for teachers however, the forms were not yet updated for the 2020/21 school year.

The Team identified one teacher whose certificate of qualification was not current and valid. The School is currently supporting the teacher with their application for re-certification.

For all locally certified teachers delivering exempted courses, the Team verified local teacher certifications and criminal record checks.

For all teachers' assistants, the Team verified that criminal record checks were in place.

The Team acknowledged the hard work and commitment of locally certified teachers and teachers' assistants to the School and its students during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Requirements:

The School is required to update the BC Ministry of Education's personal information consent form for teachers for the 2020/21 school year.

The School is required to ensure that only teachers who hold current and valid authorization from the Teacher Certification Branch or an exemption from the Independent Schools and International Education Branch teach the BC educational program.

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 Team reviewed curriculum planning documents and interviewed teachers, which provided evidence that the School is implementing the new curriculum for grades 10 to 12 courses. The School has a professional development (Pro-D) focus on the Core Competencies. Evidence of this focus was found in units and projects that address Personal and Social Awareness and Responsibility. The School is continuing to work on the integration of other Core Competencies and Indigenous Perspectives and Knowledge into course activities.

Professional development activities and resources to support the ongoing work in Core Competencies have been provided at school Pro-D days and through online videos. Teachers use their own professional resources as well as seeking out teacher-created resources from a variety of jurisdictions.

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 Team confirms that the School meets the requirements for English Language assessment and acquisition.

The Principal administers an English language assessment to all students who apply to enter BC program and makes the final decision on admission.



Grade 11 and 12 students take twice the normal number of English Language Arts courses and grade 10 students have twice the normal time allotment for their English Language Arts courses.

The School administers a school-based baseline assessment of ELL twice a year which is used to develop and inform strategies. These strategies include a Language Lab block that has been added to provide extra work and support in ELL through the use of ReadTheory. Students also get extra support in ELL through ESL classes supervised by Chinese homeroom teachers.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the school-based language assessment which is used to develop and inform strategies in ELL that include a Language Lab and additional after-school support.

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:

The School offers the following exempted courses not requiring BC-certified teachers: Mandarin 10, 11, 12; PHE 10, 11, 12; Music 10,11, 12; Visual Art 10, 11, 12.

Currently, the School does not offer the opportunity for students to challenge courses. Equivalency is offered for DL courses.

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 confirms that the School meets the requirements for overview/course planning. Teachers use the new curriculum in their course planning and daily teaching. Yearly overviews and/or unit plans for all courses include the Learning Standards. Some courses do not have all three elements (Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies, Content) in all planning



documents. In some cases, the Content is not directly from the Learning Standards and is mixed with course topics.

There are a variety of learning experiences and assessment strategies that demonstrate the pedagogical approaches of the BC curriculum in action.

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 Team confirms that the School meets the requirement for instructional time allotments for the BC program.

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:

The Team confirms that the School meets the requirement for assessment methods.

The School uses a standardized writing and reading assessment to set targets for ELL. There are a variety of summative assessment methods including student projects and presentations to demonstrate learning. There are regular assemblies that feature student presentations of learning – in dance (PHE), music, and other subjects.

The School has a “no-zero” policy and teachers are to encourage students to re-write assessments and assess students for what they know, not for behaviour. Criterion-referenced assessment is used in all courses. These are sometimes in the form of rubrics and 10-point and 100-point marking systems.

BC provincial assessments are invigilated and kept secure according to Ministry of Education requirements.



Commendation:

The School is commended for the regular student assemblies which feature presentations of learning.

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 Team confirms that the School meets the expectations for learning resources. The School has an award-winning library with a collection of leveled English books and a large open space suitable for a full class to do library research. The collection is managed through Follet software. Students and classes have not accessed the library regularly due in part to the online approach necessary due to COVID-19.

The School has two computer labs and has Smartboards in every classroom. Every student has a laptop and/or tablet. Wi-Fi is available in the school.

The School has adequate resources to support learning. The Principal signs off on the acquisition of all learning resource requests.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the quality of the library space and collection.

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 Team confirms that the School meets the requirements for student progress reports.

The School has three report cards per year and two interim reports. Parents are also contacted individually as needed – the communication being through Chinese homeroom teachers. There are parent-teacher interviews done as student-led conferences twice a year.

Communication books for grades 10 and 11 go back and forth between Chinese homeroom teachers and parents twice a month.



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 that has been updated for the 2020/21 school year and meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the inspection catalogue. It is a comprehensive, bilingual document with two versions, one for parents and one for students, that contains sections related to school administration, student conduct and supervision, admissions, assessment, appeals and dispute resolution.

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 verified that the teacher handbook has been updated for the 2020/21 school year, although the Team encourages the School to conduct a thorough review ahead of the next school year. The teacher handbook is comprehensive and includes content in support of teachers' professional and personal needs. It includes policies and procedures for teacher evaluation and administration evaluation. The handbook satisfies Ministry requirements for the 2020/21 school year.

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 offers Chemistry 12 and Anatomy and Physiology 12 through Global Education (SD73 Business Company). The course is supervised by a BC-certified teacher at the School and is offered through Equivalency.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative of Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School for:

- developing a comprehensive school growth plan that focuses on students' educational success and personal wellbeing. (1.0)
- its high graduation rate which has exceeded the average for all BC offshore, public and independent schools over the past four years. (1.0)
- the strong support of the host school, its leadership and staff associated with the BC program for their commitment to the students and their colleagues during the COVID-19 pandemic. (2.08)
- the commitment of the host school to the BC program as demonstrated by the provision of extensive human and learning resources. (2.08)
- the school-based language assessment which is used to develop and inform strategies in ELL that include a Language Lab and additional after-school support. (2.20)
- the regular student assemblies which feature presentations of learning. (2.23)
- the quality of the library space and collection. (2.24)

Requirements

In order to meet the requirements of the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*, the Team requires that by February 5, 2021, the Owner/Operator provide the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, responsible for the BC Global Education Program - Offshore Schools, with a plan and timeline for proposed implementation of the following items:

- The School is required to update the BC Ministry of Education's personal information consent forms for teachers for the 2020/21 school year. (2.11)
- The School is required to ensure that only teachers who hold current and valid authorization from the Teacher Certification Branch or an exemption from the Independent Schools and International Education Branch teach the BC educational program. (2.11)

NOTE FROM MINISTRY:

The two requirements listed above have been addressed to the Ministry's satisfaction. This School remains in good standing for the 2020/21 school year.



SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education that, contingent on responding to the above requirements to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, the British Columbia education program offered at Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

