

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

LANZHOU ORIENTAL CANADA SECONDARY SCHOOL

LANZHOU, GANSU PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 3-4, 2016

INTRODUCTION

On November 3-4, 2016 a Certification Inspection was completed on Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School (LOCSS) in Lanzhou, Gansu 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 Daphne Churchill and Claudio Morelli (Chair).

The School's B.C. Program has an enrolment of 162 students, in Grades 10 to 12. In addition there are 18 students enrolled in a pre-Grade 10 Foundations Program. The B.C. Program is housed within the Lanzhou Jiaotang University Oriental Middle School (LJUOMS) that enrolls approximately 3500 students in Grades 7 to 12.

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), the Chinese Principal and Vice-Principal of LJUOMS, the B.C. Principal and Vice-Principal, B.C. teachers, Chinese teachers and the administrative support staff.

The Owner/Operator, Mr. Hong (Jerry) Zhang is responsible for the B.C. Program and has a business agreement with Mr. Tang, the Owner/Operator of LJUOMS, to offer the B.C. Program within the larger school.

Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School's philosophy, objectives is encapsulated by its mission statement which describes the School's efforts, "to develop responsible and educated



citizens by providing an environment that expects and encourages respect for each other and the community” and “provide diverse extra and co-curricula to complement the academics, creating a rich variety of valued and supported offerings.”

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.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

The School successfully addressed the three requirements as contained in the 2015 inspection report. However, the LOCSS Principal informed the Team that although the host Chinese School has partially addressed the issue over the storage and disposal of chemical materials, the Team is still concerned over the continued restrictions placed on the B.C. Program staff in delivering the full range of experiences for the B.C. students in the science programs.

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 Team noted that the School has completed and filed a Business Plan with the B.C. Ministry of Education, which parallels the information presented in the Inspection Catalogue. The Business Plan confirms the implementation of the program for the 2016-2017 school year.

The School continues to consistently enrol a significant number of Grade 10 students. An extensive and effective recruitment strategy is in place to ensure the viability and sustainability of the B.C. Program. The School will be moving into a new school campus that will house the B.C. Program. Expected completion of the new school will be in 2017.



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 Owner/Operator meets all requirements as outlined in the B.C. Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement. Written approval is on file from the local Provincial Education Bureau demonstrating support and permission for the B.C. Program to operate at LOCSS for the 2016-2017 school year.

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:

LOCSS is the sole International Program school housed within LJUOMS, the host Chinese school. The LJUOMS campus consists of dormitories, dining hall, full size track and field, outdoor tennis and basketball courts and a large classroom and administration building. LOCSS is located on the sixth and seventh floors and consists of nine classrooms, Music room, Art room, two dedicated computer labs, a library and a staff office shared by the B.C. Program staff and Chinese teaching staff. In addition, there is also a shared staffroom, a Principal's office and administrative support offices. The B.C. Program also has access to other LJUOMS facilities including additional science labs, an assembly hall and another computer lab.

The Team noted that students in the B.C. Program practice fire and earthquake drills and staff are aware of the evacuation procedures. The School provided records to demonstrate that drills were completed during the first two months of school.

Documents relating to municipal codes for health and safety compliance were available, reviewed and found to be in order.

The Team is satisfied that facilities are in compliance and are suitable to support the B.C. Program.

Commendation:

The Team commends the School for the efforts it has taken to have the B.C. Program staff and the Chinese teaching staff share collaborative offices and work spaces. It is evident that



this has contributed to the cooperative and positive environment at LOCSS.

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 Team confirms that the Owner/Operator has appointed, Dr. Rick Erickson as the Offshore School Representative for LOCSS. Dr. Erickson is an experienced Offshore School Representative who has extensive teaching and administrative experience as a B.C. educator. The Team was appreciative of the Dr. Erickson's support and assistance throughout the inspection.

The Team confirmed that Dr. Erickson meets all of the requirements as set in Section 14 of the Agreement.

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 of the School is in his first year at LOCSS and in his first year as a B.C. Offshore School Principal. He has previous administrative experience as a Vice-Principal in a B.C. Offshore School and has also extensive experience as a teacher in B.C. Offshore School Programs in China. He has established a cooperative and collaborative relationship with the Chinese administration in the short period of time he has been at the School.

LOCSS has also increased its administration staffing by hiring a Vice-Principal for the B.C. Program. The new Vice-Principal is in her fourth year as a teacher at LOCSS. She is an experienced teacher who can use her knowledge and understanding of the School to support and assist the new Principal in fulfilling the responsibilities of administration.



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 meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in the Inspection Catalogue. There is a number of bilingual administrative support staff that provide substantial assistance to the school administration and the B.C. Program teachers.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the many administrative support personnel put in place to support the B.C. Program teachers and students. In particular, the Team observed Administrative Support staff, Chinese teachers and B.C. Program staff work collaboratively to meet the needs of the students and parents that they serve.

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:

Student files are maintained by the Principal Assistant and are securely stored in the Principal's office. Student files were found to be in excellent order with all required inclusions dated and organized chronologically.

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.



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 Team saw clear evidence that the LOCSS staff is voluntarily adopting the redesigned Grade 10 to 12 redesigned curriculum. This was evidenced in both the teachers' overviews and in their classroom instruction.

The Principal has taken the lead role along with designated teachers who attended the Ministry's summer workshop to lead the professional development for staff at staff meetings and on designated professional development days.

The LOCSS staff has taken a very professional interest in the redesigned curriculum and have been preparing for the implementation through staff meetings and designated professional development days.

Commendation:

The Team commends the LOCSS staff for already implementing instructional strategies and ELL strategies that incorporate elements of the redesigned curriculum. The Team observed the purposeful use of technology blended into teacher and student work and activities that require creative and critical thinking skills.

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 Team confirms that LOCSS uses a comprehensive process to assess students for entry into the B.C. Program at Grade 10. The School documents each student's English language assessment during the application process. Daily ELL assessment is also merged into the assessment practices of the classroom teachers. The School administration supports the teachers by discussing both curriculum adaptations and ELL strategies.

The Team saw clear evidence that the daily use of active ELL strategies and assessment for learning are woven into classroom activities and assessment practices. The daily activities include the use of vocabulary development, visual teaching aids, class participation where students speak only in English and frequent check-ins by the teacher to understand and gauge student learning.



Students are further supported in ELL through the use of LOCSS's structured and purposeful 35-minute homeroom/English language acquisition class where students have additional time to receive additional English instruction.

Commendation:

The Team commends the B.C. Program teachers for the implementation of purposeful and intentional ELL strategies throughout all curricular areas and throughout the instructional day.

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:

LOCSS offers PE 10, 11 and 12, Music 10 and Mandarin 12 as exempted courses. All required documentation, including exemption letters for courses offered by the Chinese teachers, are in place.

4.4 The School meets the Course Overview 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 learning outcomes identified in the Educational Program Guides for each course, with a course overview for each course that includes content, teaching strategies, evaluation and assessment methods which are clearly linked to the B.C. learning outcomes.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School exceeds expectations for the creation of the teachers' course overviews and course frameworks as identified in the Educational Program Guides. Each teacher has well defined and concise course overviews identifying the timelines, course content, teaching strategies, assessment and evaluation practices, as well as relevant ELL practices which are clearly linked to the Provincial Learning Outcomes.

The B.C. Program teaching staff has begun the process of implementing planning documents that reflect the changes in the new redesigned curriculum.



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:

LOCSS exceeds the instructional time allotments required with a total. In addition to the curricular time delivered, the School also offers a successful clubs program following the instructional day. The B.C Program staff, along with the Chinese teaching staff, work together to offer students many extra curricular opportunities.

Commendation:

The Team commends LOCSS for providing a holistic educational program to the students. The School's curricular and extra curricular programs are providing many opportunities for students to practice their English speaking skills.

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 saw clear evidence that classroom teachers were consistently using both formative and summative assessment. Assessment methods employed by teachers included projects, oral and written reports, peer assignments, experiments, debates and self-assessment.

English 12 and Communications 12 exam results are within acceptable levels however the School is working toward closing this gap by implementing specific strategies during the 35-minute homeroom/English language acquisition class. These strategies include additional instruction and practice exams to help students prepare for the Provincial examinations.

Commendation:

The Team commends LOCSS for the extensive use of formative assessment methods throughout all curricular areas. The teachers utilize a variety of rubrics to provide constructive feedback for the students as well as using written and oral feedback methods.



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:

LOCSS has a new librarian who works with teachers, students and administration to get their input into print and technology resources and to guide the ordering of new classroom resources. The teachers order their resources in the spring of the previous school year. The number of print resources are increasing however more emphasis on a variety of materials for fiction and non-fiction use would be beneficial for the students.

Students frequently utilize effective note-taking strategies taught by all teachers to assist them with their studying and test preparation.

The School has three computer labs available for student use to support instruction and learning.

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:

LOCSS fully meets the requirements for reporting student progress with one interim report in November and regular reports distributed in December, March and a final report in June. "I" reports are also sent to parents when necessary. Report cards include letter grades, percentages and anecdotal comments translated into Chinese as well as English.

LOCSS conducts Parent-Student-Teacher conferences each term and subject teachers also utilize the Chinese homeroom teachers to contact parents and provide information to them about student progress.

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 updated Parent/Student Handbook contains all the required information regarding



discipline, appeals and dispute resolution. The Handbook is a comprehensive document that is available in both Chinese and English.

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 has been updated for the 2016-2017 school year and all requirements as outlined in Section 5.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools are met.

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:

LOCSS does not offer any credits through Distributed Learning courses.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

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

- The strong support given by the Owner/Operator Jerry Zhang and Mr. Tang the Owner/Operator and Chinese Principal of LJUOMS to operate LOCSS.
- The cooperative and positive environment evident at LOCSS for students, staff and parents. The collaboration between the B.C. Program Staff and the Chinese staff have contributed to a School that is an inviting and engaging place for students and staff to attend.
- For implementing instructional strategies and ELL strategies that incorporate elements of the redesigned curriculum prior to the mandated implementation date of September 2017.
- Providing a curricular and extra curricular program that is providing many opportunities for the LOCSS students to actively practice their English speaking skills.



- The extensive use of formative assessment methods throughout all curricular areas including a variety of rubrics to provide constructive student feedback.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Director of International Education that the British Columbia Program offered at Lanzhou Oriental Canadian Secondary School be as a British Columbia Certified Program.

