

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF FOREIGN NATIONALS SCHOOL - YIWU

YIWU, ZHEJIANG, PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 29-30, 2018

INTRODUCTION

On November 29-30, 2018, a certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Yiwu, in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China, termed MLFNS-Y 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 and Independent Schools, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Dr. John Churchley and Mr. Harry Moes (Chair).

The School's B.C. program has an enrolment of 109 students, in kindergarten to grade 9. The School is housed on a very spacious and inviting campus, shared with Maple International School – Yiwu, as well as the Maple Leaf Chinese elementary and middle school. The entire school, which houses the B.C. program, enrolls 1300 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, B.C. principal, B.C. teachers and members of the host school's administrative team.

The owner/operator, China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Ltd. (CMLES) is responsible for the B.C. program at the foreign national school and the Maple Leaf international school, as well as the Chinese elementary school and middle school.



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

- Blending the best of the innovations and higher-level thinking model with the cultural richness and discipline of the traditional Chinese educational model, preparing students to meet the challenges of living and working in a more internationalized society.
- Assuming that every child has a strong desire to learn and to develop an understanding of the world, to share their knowledge, and to communicate their understanding, thoughts, and feelings through wide-ranging personal expression.
- Providing an international education that emphasizes academic excellence within a supportive community that respects and promotes cultural norms and traditions for both Chinese and international students.
- Promoting appreciation for the diversity of people and cultures, by providing an optimal environment for learning and teaching, and offering a globally respected curriculum that inspires in students the spirit and ideals of global citizenship.

The School's 2018-19 priorities/goals for the year, among others, include

- Continuing to develop and update the Maple Leaf global curriculum to insure compliance with certification requirements of the B.C. Ministry of Education while specifically addressing the needs of second language English learners. To date, CMLES has developed 35 courses.
- Continuing to use CMLES's 3 specific strategies for English language acquisition and elements of the 12 teaching strategies by all teachers in all lessons across all subject areas.

The Team would like to thank Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School - Yiwu 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 Not Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment: The requirement for the School to have completed permanent student records (Form 1704) including grade appropriate performance indicators and days absent has been rectified through PowerSchool.</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 School's 2018-19 business plan was submitted to the Ministry of Education. The Team reviewed (a) Description of School facilities, (b) School Growth Plan, (c) Human Resources, (d) Alignment with International Education in B.C., and (e) School Finances.</p> <p>Recruitment/marketing strategies include visiting local middle schools, web advertising, the use of social media, conducting information sessions throughout the local catchment area, and participation at recruitment events, including those organized by the Canadian embassy in China or by the China educational expo.</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>During the inspection visit, provincial educational standards, requirements and expectations were reviewed. The principal and superintendent collaboratively participated and supported the November 29-30, 2018 certification inspection.</p> <p>The matter of the approval response for the Maple Leaf foreign national school by the Yiwu/Zhejiang Province Education Bureau was reviewed during the inspection visit. The School has documentation on file that it remains in compliance the Ministry of Education till June 30, 2019.</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:

Inviting classrooms, science and computer laboratories, meeting rooms, music/drama room, teacher/administration offices, and theatre are available for instructional and administration purposes.

The School provides dormitory and cafeteria facilities and shares a gymnasium, running track, soccer fields, basketball courts, and a library with the international school and the Chinese elementary and middle school.

Local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations compliance documentation was reviewed.

The School has a written emergency plan for natural disasters (i.e., fire, earthquake) and has revised the documentation to include a protocol for unplanned temporary or permanent closure of the School.

Commendation:

The School is commended for its attractively designed and well-resourced school facility, allowing education to be provided in spacious and inviting defined learning areas.

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 appointed offshore school representative is Jim Beeke who serves as the primary liaison between the owner/operator and the Ministry of Education. Mr. Beeke also works closely with Dr. Peter Froese, Maple Leaf superintendent.

Dr. Froese was appointed superintendent in August 2018. He works with the School's administrative team and teachers to address Ministry recommendations and requirements and initiates and provides ongoing professional development.



The superintendent is knowledgeable about all aspects of the School's operations and all related aspects of the owner/operator's business operations, governance, and administrative functions of the School. He is aware of his obligation to report critical information relating to changes in the operation of the School or ownership structure that could significantly impact the school operation.

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 School principal has thirty years of experience, twenty-three in Canada, and seven in China as a Maple Leaf school system administrator.

Dr. David Brecht is a strong advocate of striving to be a visible learning school community, changing/adapting teaching strategies to match the needs of students. He understands and ably fulfills the requirements outlined in section 3.2 of the inspection catalogue and detailed in his job description.

The principal attends the Annual B.C. Offshore School Administrators Conference, participates in Maple Leaf administrators zoom professional development sessions, has taught summer school for the past two summers. He is known and appreciated for working closely together with the campus administrative team, teachers, parents and students.

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 CMLES superintendent's office provides system-wide administrative and financial support. Qualified personnel have been assigned specific system coordinating responsibilities for English Enhancement, Information Technology, Science, Math, Social Studies, Student support Services, Fine Arts, Career Education and Physical Education.

A dedicated secretary assists the principal in meeting the administrative needs of the School.

Commendation:

The School is commended for increasing staffing, maximizing learning opportunities and staff qualifications, strengths and passions.



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 school principal and administrative assistant maintain and securely store individual student record files for all students with current registration forms, English language assessments (verified by the principal), the last two report cards and the B.C. Ministry of Education's personal (student/parent) information consent forms.

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 Team confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch. The Team verified that teacher files contain current teacher contact information and a copy of the authorized person's work permit or visa.

Employment contracts between teachers and the owner/operator outline the terms of employment and acknowledge that the Province of British Columbia is not party to the contract of employment between the owner/operator and the teacher and that the Province of British Columbia is not liable in any event, instance or circumstance.

The Team verified that locally certified teachers (of approved exempted courses) have valid local certification and that criminal record checks were appropriately filed.

Commendation:

The School is commended for promoting a positive, caring, respectful, encouraging and safe environment through classroom instruction and practices.

Suggestion:

The School is encouraged to consider (1) developing and adopting a written protocol (best practices guidelines) to ensure that all teacher documentation requirements are current and complete; and (2) reviewing teacher contracts to ensure that the up-to-date nomenclature for teacher curricular development expectations are used.



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:

The Team reviewed curriculum planning documents, which give evidence of the School's transition to the new B.C. curriculum in grades 1-9.

Various curriculum planning documents were viewed – they demonstrate different planning approaches to the curriculum framework that allow for teacher flexibility in the planning process. Some are provided by Maple Leaf, some are from other B.C. sources, and some are teacher-created.

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 the School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition.

The principal is responsible for managing and making final decisions on student admission and assessment of English language skills.

English language learning is also encouraged through three ESL teachers who work directly with students during a separate class each day. Students are grouped by ability for these classes so that those who are struggling with language have targeted support. The support is primarily in reading and writing.

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 Not Applicable

Comment:

This section of the inspection catalogue does not apply to grades 1-9.



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 confirms that course planning documents meet the requirements. Planning documents, including overviews, unit plans, and lesson plans refer to the new curriculum frameworks. Some of these documents have been created from Maple Leaf templates, written by professional teaching staff. Others have been adopted from other B.C. sources, and some are teacher-created. The documents show evidence of individual teachers experimenting with different approaches to planning and teaching that reflect their own pedagogical philosophies and the needs of their specific students.

The Team also confirms that in addition to the planning, there is evidence of instructional practices that reflect the pedagogical direction of the new curriculum. Student work is displayed that shows a variety of creative approaches to the presentation of their learning. Classrooms are large, and teachers are able to take advantage of the space to create active lessons.

Commendation:

The School is commended for providing students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways that support creative thinking and choice.

4.5 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 Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the School meets the requirement for instructional time allotments. Student instructional time totals 915 hours per year, which exceeds the minimum requirements for grades 1-9.



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 teachers use a variety of learning assessment tools, including the Fountas and Pinnell Reading Benchmarks for primary students. The use of the B.C. performance standards is encouraged. There is evidence that a variety of formative and summative assessment strategies are used to inform students about their learning and to help guide instruction for teachers. Students are given the opportunity to self-assess in many areas, including the core competencies.

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 confirms that School meets the expectations for learning resources as outlined in section 4.7 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Effective use of technology by both teachers and students was observed during classroom visitation. A lab with 30 computers is available for student use. There was evidence of teachers using the lab with classes to support student learning in a number of subjects including math and reading.

The School has a small library with hard copy books and inviting places to read. Leveled books are available for primary students. Older students have access to a large online database of periodicals and reference materials as well as a large eBook collection which is targeted for youth. Teachers also use epicreading.com for additional children's books.

All subject areas are supported by relevant B.C. sourced text resources. The operating practice is for the principal to approve all learning resources.



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 Team confirms the School meets the expectations for student progress reports as outlined in section 4.8 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

The School has four report cards per year. There are two formal sets of parent-teacher interviews. Students in grades 6-9 and their parents have 24/7 access to grades through the mark book portal. Parents are also contacted individually when required to help support students – the communication being facilitated by Chinese counselors as needed. Parents receive information from the school through social media.

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 parent/student handbook is updated yearly, and is descriptive, informative and current. Designated sections deal with Student Services; Student Expectations and Consequences; Academic Performance Regulations; Graduation Requirements, Student Activities, and Student Responsibilities.

The School has developed policy and procedures for appeals and dispute resolution as required under sections 9.1(c) of the Agreement.

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 comprehensive teacher handbook is updated yearly and details the School's Vision/Mission/Shared Values; Student Matters; Student Safety; Professional Conduct; Performance Management; School Budgeting; Hours of work; Employee Benefits; Conditions of Employment; and Communications.



Teachers and administrators are evaluated as required under Section 9.14(a) of the Agreement, and respective policies were reviewed.

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:

No students are enrolled in distributed learning courses.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

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

- its attractively designed and well-resourced school facility, allowing education to be provided in spacious and inviting defined learning areas.
- increasing staffing, maximizing learning opportunities and staff qualifications, strengths and passions.
- promoting a positive, caring, respectful, encouraging and safe environment through classroom instruction and practices.
- providing students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways that support creative thinking and choice.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of International Education and Independent Schools that the British Columbia education program offered at Maple Leaf Foreign National School – Yiwu continue to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

