

# Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

*at*

MAPLE LEAF FOREIGN NATIONALS SCHOOL – YIWU

YIWU, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 16, 2016

## INTRODUCTION

On November 16, 2016, a Pre-Certification Inspection was completed on Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Yiwu (MLFNS-Y), Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, 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 Dr. Laurie Anderson (Chair) and Ms. Karine Veldhoen.

The School's B.C. Program has an enrolment of 39 students, in Grades 1-9 (four multi-grade classrooms). The School opened in September 2016. The School is currently housed in a large campus shared with Maple Leaf International School – Yiwu as well as the Maple Leaf Chinese Elementary and Middle School. The entire School enrolls 968 students in several programs which includes the Foundations and Bridging programs.

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 Superintendent of Schools – B.C. Programs, B.C. Principal, B.C. teachers and the Principal and Superintendent of the Chinese schools.

The Owner/Operator, Maple Leaf Educational Systems (MLES), is responsible for the B.C. Foreign Nationals School, the B.C. Graduation Program and the Maple Leaf Chinese Middle and Elementary Schools that share the campus.



The B.C. Program's philosophy, objectives and special features include MLES' well-established mandate of providing students with the knowledge, skills and attitude to thrive as global citizens with English language proficiency and with a quality education based on the best educational practises in the East and the West.

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.**

Requirement Met       Requirement Not Met       Not Applicable

Comment:

This is the first certification inspection for Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Yiwu.

## 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 Owner/Operator has submitted a detailed Business Plan. The Plan outlines the potential for growth in a city (Yiwu) with over 300, 000 foreign nationalists.

Commendation: The Principal is commended for his market analysis and promotion of the School in the local expatriate community.

## 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 of the criteria outlined in 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 School is housed in a well-equipped campus that meets local regulatory standards.

**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 School has appointed the Superintendent of Global Education for MLES as the approved Offshore School Representative (OSR). The OSR has 20 years of experience with all aspects of offshore school regulations and operations.

**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 has years of experience as a Principal in both Canadian and offshore schools.

**Commendations:**

The Team commends MLES for appointing an experienced Principal to launch the Foreign Nationals School in Yiwu.

The Team commends the Principal for his visionary, calm and competent leadership, his ability to forge strong relationships with the Chinese Principal and the Chinese teachers, and his mentoring of the new B.C. teachers.



**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 Principal is supported by a bilingual Executive Assistant and three bilingual administrative staff.

**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:**

The School's student records are current, comprehensive and securely stored.

**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 teachers focus on the why, what and how of the redesigned B.C. curriculum during their in-service opportunities throughout the school year. The teachers also meet weekly with teachers in the Chinese program to discuss instructional strategies.



**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 draws on MLES' English language assessment resources, as well as teachers' own assessment and evaluation instruments. The School places an emphasis on students' growing proficiency in English.

**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:**

Section 4.3 of the Inspection Catalogue dealing with course credit issues does not apply to the Gr 1-9 Foreign Nationals School program delivery.

**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:**

This is a newly opened Grades 1-9 Foreign Nationals School and the teachers are complying with the planning requirements. Teachers are also transitioning into the re-designed curriculum, with the big ideas and core competencies being the focus of lesson and course planning.

**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 School exceeds the minimum hours of instructional time outlined in Section 4.5 of the Inspection Catalogue.



Teachers focus heavily on English language acquisition strategies to support student progress through the B.C. Program.

**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 combine use of MLES' assessment strategies with their own. The current smaller class size facilitates individual student assessment and ongoing opportunities for one-to-one instruction as needed.

**Commendation:**

The Team commends the teachers for their professionalism, their range of assessment strategies used, and for the high levels of student engagement witnessed in classrooms.

**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 is quickly building an impressive inventory of learning resources, in text and online. The library collection reflects the English language acquisition and development needs of the students, including high interest, low vocabulary fiction, Lexile levelled books and mixed-genre 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:**

The School has just opened (September, 2016) and will draw upon MLES experience with meeting the reporting requirements as their enrolment grows. The School has already established a Parent Advisory Council (PAC), held its first meeting (October 17<sup>th</sup>) and has hired an Arabic speaking staff member to help with ongoing communications with parents.

**Commendation:**

The Team commends the staff for their proactive approach to cultivating strong, positive



relationships with parents. The students at the School come from a rich diversity of ethnic backgrounds with varied histories with educational institutions. The Principal and staff's attention to fostering a cohesive, supportive parent community who works together to support students' learning and development is highly commendable.

## 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's Parent/Student Handbook meets the requirements of 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 School has a very comprehensive Teacher Handbook covering all aspects of the teachers' roles, responsibilities and expectations.

Commendation: MLES is commended for developing a thorough, supportive infrastructure that facilitates the transition of B.C. teachers into the offshore program.

## 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 Distributed Learning courses.



## CONCLUSION

### Commendations

**The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School for:**

- The Principal's leadership experience and perseverance as the Foreign Nationals School was conceived, established and developed;
- The proactive approach teachers have taken to establish strong positive partnerships with the ethnically diverse parent community;
- The broad range of teaching strategies used to meet the needs of the diverse student population;
- The trusting, mutually respectful, caring relationships and rapport evident throughout the School: between teachers and students, between teachers and the Principal, and between staff and administrative staff in the B.C. and Chinese programs;
- The rich diversity and multiculturalism on display within the school (e.g. flags of students' countries of origin in the hallways);
- The attention and care paid to making the school's common areas warm and inviting, with student creations (kites, lanterns, murals, etc.);
- The inclusion of Chinese teachers in the B.C. Program in-service activities, including weekly discussion and workshops on teaching and learning strategies;
- Embedding seven half days of professional development into the annual school calendar;
- The initial steps taken to implement the B.C. Program, including staff discussions at in-service, exploring the big ideas in lessons, displaying the revised B.C. Program framework around the school;
- The flexibility and commitment of the newly hired teachers during the initial months of the School's operation.

### SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

**The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Director of International Education that the British Columbia Program offered at Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School-Yiwu be recognized as a British Columbia Certified Program.**

