

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - HAINAN

HAIKOU CITY, HAINAN PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 29-30, 2020

INTRODUCTION

On November 29-30, 2020, an online certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf International School – Hainan (MLIS-Ha), Haikou, Hainan, 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 inspector, 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), was Alan Schroeder.

During the online inspection of the School, the inspector reviewed all standards required in the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met virtually with the Maple Leaf Education System superintendent (representing the Offshore School Representative), Chinese headmistress, Chinese principal, BC Principal, BC teachers, librarian and guidance counselor.

The Owner/Operator, China Maple Leaf Education Systems Ltd. (CMLES), under CEO Dr. Sherman Jen, is responsible for the BC program. MLIS-Ha is in its fourth year offering the BC Graduation Program. It has an enrolment of 44 full-time students. The School shares a campus with Maple Leaf elementary, middle and high schools, which offer the Chinese curriculum, and a grade 10 program that offers the Maple Leaf World Curriculum program. The entire campus has an enrolment of approximately 3,500 students. China Maple Leaf Education Systems Ltd. currently operates over 100 schools across China, Canada, Singapore and Australia.

The BC program’s philosophy, objectives and special features include a desire to develop and deliver a high-quality education program with a global focus. System-wide, CMLES has a comprehensive description of its mission, vision, philosophy and direction. Highlights include:



- The desire to blend the best educational practices of the East and the West;
- The belief that every child has a strong desire to learn and to develop an understanding of the world;
- The desire to provide an international education that emphasizes academic excellence within a supportive community that also respects diversity and promotes global citizenship; and
- The goal to develop students that will achieve their best potential and to provide them with a world of opportunity.

The Team would like to thank Maple Leaf International Schools – Hainan for its warm virtual welcome, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

The School had one requirement in its previous annual inspection, which was addressed to the Ministry's satisfaction. The School also had a number of suggestions in its previous inspection to which it gave thoughtful consideration.

BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator has submitted a comprehensive growth plan to the Ministry that touches on several key areas including CMLES system-wide continuous improvement; effectively implementing BC curriculum to its grade 11 and 12 students; expanding implementation of the Maple Leaf World Curriculum; enhancing English language learning opportunities for students; increasing student engagement; developing and maintaining its IT infrastructure; planning for recruitment and retention of teachers; and preparing for its Cognia accreditation engagement review in two years' time.

At the school level, the School has three main goals for the 2020/21 school year:

- 1) Improve English language acquisition through the implementation of literacy programs in homeroom and continued development of the Learning Commons as a space for language learning,



- 2) Improve collegiality between departments (BC, Chinese, and ESL) through staff building events and professional learning communities, and
- 3) Improve communication with parents through the use of the PowerSchool parent portal, regular informational term letters, and parent meetings.

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

Commendation:

The Owner/Operator and the Maple Leaf system are commended for the commitment of time and resources toward systematic improvement aimed at further enhancing the educational environment offered at the School.

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 has a letter dated June 19, 2017, from the Hainan Provincial Department of Education to open a school offering a bilingual dual diploma that uses Chinese and British Columbia high school curricula. The letter is valid indefinitely.

The inspector reviewed a private school operating license issued by the Haikou Education Bureau that is valid until October 20, 2023 and a Certificate of Registration for Private Non-enterprise Entity issued by the Department of Civil Affairs of Hainan Province with validity until December 29, 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 located on a gated and fully secured 17-acre campus that is shared between the BC program and Maple Leaf elementary, middle and high schools, which offer the Chinese curriculum, and a grade 10 program that offers the Maple Leaf World Curriculum program. CMLES acquired the facility in 2017.

The BC program is located in a six-floor building completed in the fall of 2018. It currently occupies the first three floors of the building while the other floors are occupied by the Chinese middle school program. The School is working toward constructing a new building for the secondary program, scheduled to be completed in 2022, that will include a gymnasium, cafeteria, auditorium, dormitory space, offices and classrooms. The addition of a new gymnasium and auditorium will enhance the learning environment at the School and are expected to be attractive features in support of student recruitment.

The BC program space is equipped with classrooms, administrative offices, two new science laboratories, a dance studio, a simultaneous interpretation conference room and a Learning Commons, which staff and students describe as a highlight and hub of activity within the School. At the present time, the School's foods lab is located in one of the other Chinese school buildings on campus.

The greater campus contains an auditorium, dormitories, two cafeterias, a shop, medical facilities and outdoor athletic facilities.

The inspector reviewed an "Opinions on Fire Acceptance of Construction Projects" certificate dated January 4, 2019, a Food Circulation License with validity until May 19, 2021, a "Haikou Construction Completion Acceptance Record Form" issued on September 27, 2019, and a "Notice of Haikou Construction Engineering Quality and Safety Supervision Station on the termination of the construction safety supervision of the Hainan Maple Leaf Science and Education Group Co., Ltd. High School Teaching Building Project" issued on March 21, 2019.

The inspector recognized the detailed and extensive emergency plans and procedures prepared by the School that focus on fire, earthquake, electrical blackout, typhoon and lockdown. The School has scheduled four emergency drills for the 2020/21 school year. The first drill, with a focus on fire, was conducted on October 7.

The School has also created an Emergency Plan for COVID-19 Prevention and Control to complement its existing plans to support students and teachers in the event of a temporary



or permanent closure of the School. The plans have been reviewed by the Offshore School Representative for accuracy and functionality.

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 educator and administrator with more than 20 years of experience as teacher and principal in independent schools in British Columbia and almost 10 years of experience as an independent school inspector. He has acted as the OSR for China Maple Leaf Educational Systems since 2014.

The British Columbia-based OSR is supported by a Dalian, China-based superintendent's office which is led by a Superintendent and an Assistant Superintendent who are responsible for teacher recruitment and retention, regular contact with schools and curriculum development.

The OSR was represented by the Superintendent in this inspection. The Superintendent confirmed his and the OSR's awareness of the OSR's obligation to report critical information relating to changes in the operation of the School or ownership structure that could significantly impact the School's operation.

The Inspector appreciated the participation of the Superintendent during the inspection.

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 serving in his first year as Principal of the School. He has previously served as vice principal, educational coordinator and teacher at other Maple Leaf Schools for more than 10 years. The Principal has worked effectively to develop a collaborative work environment both with teachers in the BC program as well as leaders and teachers of the Chinese and ESL programs at the School.

The Principal meets all requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue.



Commendation:

The Principal is commended for his work in developing a collaborative work environment, namely in supporting teachers to be their best as professionals and also in strengthening the relationship between the BC, Chinese and ESL programs at the School.

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 is supported administratively at the school and system levels. The BC program at the School is part of the CMLES Hainan School District containing Chinese-language elementary, middle and high schools, which are overseen by the Chinese headmistress.

At the school level, the BC principal is supported by a BC program secretary who assists the Principal and teachers with their day-to-day needs, and a Foreign Affairs secretary that is responsible for teacher documentation. The BC program is supported by school-level staff in the areas of admissions, finance, IT, and general affairs. The Principal maintains collaborative relationships with the District Headmistress, Campus Headmaster, Chinese principal and Counselor General, ESL Director, and Graduation Centre staff.

At the system level, the BC program is supported by the superintendent's office in Dalian, China, in the areas of curriculum development, professional development and program administration.

The School meets the required bandwidth standard established by the Ministry of Education. The School has recently reached agreement with a telecoms provider to double the bandwidth available at the campus, which is expected to enhance the digital experience for students and staff.

PowerSchool 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.



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 inspector reviewed a sampling of student records and confirmed the presence of all required elements including BC program registration form, English language entrance assessment results, Permanent Student Record, student and parent consent forms 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 inspector confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education.

The inspector reviewed a sampling of teacher files and confirmed the presence of all necessary elements including verification of British Columbia teacher certification, employment contract, teacher evaluations, BC Ministry of Education personal information consent form, contact information, work permit and residence permit.

The inspector verified that the School has in its possession a letter from the Ministry of Education dated September 30, 2020 providing temporary exemption until February 15, 2021 for one teacher whose Certificate of Qualification application is in progress. The inspector confirmed that Maple Leaf is supporting this teacher to ensure that all proper documentation is submitted to the Ministry in a timely manner.

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

There is extensive professional development provided to teachers, some of which is provided by the Maple Leaf system and some which is provided by the School. The School's class timetable does not include Friday afternoon sessions, time which is reserved for professional development. Focus areas commonly include curriculum implementation, assessment strategies, supporting English language learners and technology (e.g., the School's learning management system and student information system). Following the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the professional development focus was on online learning. At the school level, the



Principal commonly requests the input of teachers when setting the agenda for school-level professional development.

In interviewing teachers and staff at the School, several teachers talked about the collaborative work environment between teachers as one of the School's greatest strengths.

Commendation:

The teachers are commended for their energy and commitment to their students and their colleagues.

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:

In this first year of a three-year transition of Maple Leaf from the British Columbia curriculum, grade 10 students are now following the Maple Leaf World Curriculum while grade 11 and 12 students continue to complete the requirements of the BC graduation program.

The inspector verified through the review of planning materials and interviews with teachers that teachers of grade 11 and 12 courses are fully implementing the BC curriculum. This is facilitated by the support provided by the Maple Leaf system through which planning materials and lesson ideas for most courses are prepared by curriculum coordinators and shared with teachers through a system-wide SharePoint site. Planning templates include elements such as Big ideas, core competencies and curriculum competencies, First Peoples Principles of Learning and student assessment. Teachers talked about student reflection, self-assessment and student ownership of their learning as being important elements of learning. Over the past year, the School has focused on enhancing its understanding of First Peoples Principles of Learning and integrating those principles in the classroom. The inspector was pleased to see evidence of growth this year through hearing several examples of how the principles have been integrated in the classroom and connected to Chinese culture.



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 management of the student admissions process is jointly administered by the BC Principal and district headmistress. Prospective students take the “Maple Leaf English Leveling Test” to determine program placement. The test is administered by the ESL program director while the BC Principal has oversight of invigilation and assessment. The School offers four programs for new students ranging from a Foundations program, in which students focus on building English language ability, to direct placement in the full grade 10 program.

Summer school is offered to new students prior to enrolment in grade 10.

The system employs several strategies aimed at enhancing students’ English language proficiency including instructional strategies, silent reading time during homeroom, individual support to at-risk students and professional development in ESL teaching strategies. The School has introduced ReadTheory, an online reading program that enables the School to assess students’ reading ability and identify appropriately leveled reading materials.

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 one BAA course: Teacher Assistant 12. The inspector confirmed that the course framework reflects the Ministry template.

There are a number of courses taught by locally certified teachers (Mandarin 11, 12 and Chinese Social Studies 12). The inspector reviewed English language course overviews.

In addition, students take other Chinese courses so that they can graduate with both BC and Chinese graduation certificates.

The School currently has one student that is taking a course through distributed learning. The inspector discussed the need to have an equivalency review policy in place by the end of the semester so that credit for the course can be granted to the student following an equivalency review as required by the Ministry.



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 School meets the course overview and planning requirements. Each grade 11 and 12 course has detailed overviews that reflects the BC curriculum framework. Overview and planning materials are provided by the Maple Leaf system and include elements such as Big ideas, core competencies, curriculum competencies, First Peoples Principles of Learning and student assessment including self-assessment. They also include helpful teaching activities, key vocabulary, key learning strategies for ESL learners and supplementary resources.

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 School exceeds the instructional time allotment requirements. There are 181 instructional days with 5.83 instructional hours per day for a total of approximately 1,055 instructional hours per year.

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:

In reviewing planning materials and in interviews with teachers, the inspector confirmed that both formative and summative assessment methods are employed by teachers at the School. The School and system provide professional development in support of developing techniques and ensuring consistency of assessment across schools in the system. This is evident through the variety of techniques listed in planning materials and the common rubrics that are provided by the system and shared between Maple Leaf schools.



Students demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways including PowerPoint presentations, video presentations, computer designed posters, artwork, speeches and debates, short stories, groupwork, letters, and a number of activities at connecting classroom theories to real world application.

The School plans to have students take the grade 10 Graduation Numeracy and Literacy Assessments in January 2021. The inspector encourages the School to conduct professional development related to the assessments to provide teachers with an understanding of the assessments, their cross-curricular nature and better prepare students for success.

The School's security and invigilation procedures for BC provincial assessments meet Ministry requirements. The Principal oversees the entire process and keeps the password letter until just prior to the exams when it is shared with invigilators. All students are assigned a computer terminal and must show a photo ID and follow an "integrity check" when entering the secured room. Once inside the room, each student confirms his/her name and PEN number on the computer screen. Each room has two invigilators and a third invigilator is in the hallway outside the room for additional support as required.

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 School has a wide variety of learning resources available to support student learning. The popular Learning Commons is a bright room that is a focal point of learning and collaboration at the School. It is stocked with a variety of print materials and the librarian has an annual budget for the purchase of additional materials. The new librarian has made several improvements to the Learning Commons aimed at improving the management of library resources and the student learning experience such as cataloguing books that were not previously in the library system, improving the tracking of books and beginning plans with input of the School's teachers to procure additional materials.

The print materials are complemented by digital materials available through a recently licensed resource called OverDrive, which provides access to a variety of fiction, non-fiction, audio and video materials for student use.

All Maple Leaf students are provided a laptop upon enrolment. The computers are used extensively by teachers and students in a wide variety of ways in support of their learning. Through discussions with teachers and review of student work, the inspector observed computers being used for activities such as quizzes and tests, various types of writing,



PowerPoint presentations, video production, graphic design and various homework assignments. These activities are producing skills in students that will prepare them for successful futures in their post secondary studies and professional careers.

Teachers indicated that they have sufficient resources to teach the BC program, including print and classroom materials. The School a budget for the acquisition of print and digital resources.

The MLIS-Hainan campus has an internet bandwidth of 150 Mbps, of which the BC program is allocated 100 Mbps. The headmistress has recently entered into an agreement with a telecoms provider to double the campus bandwidth to 300 Mbps, an action that is intended to improve the stability and quality of the campus's network.

Commendations:

The School is commended for its investment in the Learning Commons, which has developed into a focal point for learning and collaborating.

The School is commended for its embrace of the use of technology throughout the learning environment aimed at preparing students for successful futures in their post secondary studies and professional careers.

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 School meets the student progress report requirements. Progress reports include letter grades and definitions, percentages, work habits, comments for each subject in English and Chinese, absences and lates, and principal signature.

Formal progress reports are issued four times per year in November, January, April and June. Two informal reports are provided to grade 12 students who need them for university applications.

Printed progress reports are provided to students by their homeroom teachers. Parents are provided electronic versions by each student's Chinese counsellor. "I reports" are issued to students and parents in cases where a student is not meeting learning outcomes. Parents are able to request individual meetings with child's Chinese counselor as well as with the BC Principal.

Grade-level parent meetings are held each year and include presentations from the BC Principal, Chinese principal, Graduation centre and other guest speakers. At meetings



recently held in late September, there was strong participation from parents at all grade levels.

The School has made it a priority this school year to improve engagement with parents through the use of the PowerSchool parent portal. The Principal has provided training on the use of PowerSchool to teachers, Chinese administration, ESL instructors and counselors, and subsequently, the efforts are beginning to bear fruit.

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 inspector verified that the parent/student handbook meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the inspection catalogue. It is a comprehensive, bilingual document that contains sections related to student conduct, student services, academic program, overview of the BC curriculum, core competencies and First Peoples Principles of Learning, assessment procedures, graduation requirements, school-home communication, preparations for post-secondary studies, student activities, emergency evacuation procedures, and a policy for resolving disputes and appeals.

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 inspector confirmed that the teacher handbook meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the inspection catalogue. It is prepared centrally by Maple Leaf and contains content related to student matters, student safety, professional conduct, performance management, payroll administration, employee benefits, and conditions of employment.



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 one distributed learning course through GlobalEd, the approved distributed learning service provider, Chemistry 12. The Principal provides students with onsite support and is in regular contact with the course instructors.

The Principal understands that an equivalency review must be conducted at the end of each course prior to awarding credit as part of the Ministry's requirement for courses offered by distributed learning.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative of Maple Leaf International School - Hainan for:

- the commitment of time and resources by the Maple Leaf system toward systematic improvement aimed at further enhancing the educational environment offered at the School.
- the Principal's work in developing a collaborative work environment, namely in supporting teachers to be their best as professionals and also in strengthening the relationship between the BC, Chinese and ESL programs at the School.
- the teachers' energy and commitment to their students and their colleagues.
- the School's investment in the Learning Commons, which has developed into a focal point for learning and collaborating.
- the School's embrace of the use of technology throughout the learning environment aimed at preparing students for successful futures in their postsecondary studies and professional careers.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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

