

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

HARBIN ZHONGSHI - CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

HARBIN, HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2018

INTRODUCTION

On November 6-7, 2018, a certification inspection was completed on Harbin Zhongshi - Canadian International School (HZ-CIS) in Harbin, Heilongjiang 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 (B.C.) education program have been met, according to the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*. The inspection 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. Laurie Anderson (the Inspector).

The School's B.C. program has an enrolment of 10 students, in grades 10 and 11. The entire School which houses the B.C. program, Harbin Zhongshi School (HZS), enrolls 1350 students in grades 6-12.

During their visit to the School, the Inspector 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), B.C. principal, B.C. teachers, the bilingual office staff and the two bilingual teaching assistants.

The owner/operator, Heilongjiang Zhongshi Group Ltd. is responsible for the B.C. program. The owner/operator also operates the host school, HZS.

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

The School's core mission is to "form inquiring, confident and resilient learners, able to use sophisticated critical and creative thinking skills to solve complex challenges facing themselves and the world."



The Inspector would like to thank Harbin Zhongshi – Canadian International School for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment: There were no requirements from the previous inspection at this time last year (2017).</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: Notwithstanding the small program size, the School is committed to a long-term growth plan while maintaining high admission standards. The School’s plan for attracting more students is comprehensive and detailed, including the following strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish a “pre-B.C.” program (already in place) that emphasizes English language acquisition and general scholastic readiness to start the B.C. program in grade 10; 2) Identify potential B.C. program students within the host school; 3) Cultivate a network of “education agents” to direct students to the School; 4) Implement an aggressive print and radio promotional campaign; 5) Initiate a “parent school” of workshops with relevant content; 6) Capitalize on the principal’s and the OSR’s extensive network of contacts throughout the offshore school system to recruit students. 	
<p>Commendation: The School is commended for implementing a comprehensive and realistic business plan that outlines a pathway to incremental growth and program sustainability.</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).

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The owner/operator meets all the criteria outlined in the Agreement to operate a B.C. Offshore School. The Team reviewed the Certification Agreement outlining authorization from the local government with “paramount authority” for education. The Agreement is in place until June 2020.

Commendation:

The owner/operator is commended for making the long-term commitment to ensuring the B.C. program is successful in Harbin.

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 conforms to all local regulations regarding safety, building and cafeteria codes. The Inspector confirms that the physical plant is clean, spacious and well resourced. The B.C. program occupies a wing of the school with customized classrooms with acoustic walls and flexible seating for individual or group work.

The structure and condition of the school space is optimal for the B.C. program to grow. There are six spacious, well equipped classrooms, a library and “learning commons”, both well- resourced, access to art and music rooms, as well as science labs and an impressive multi-purpose gym that includes a running track. The School is commended for the excellent facilities well suited to the B.C. program.

The School’s closure plans contain contingency plans for students and staff in the event of a sudden unplanned closure of the school.



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 OSR experience with offshore schools, and international education, is both deep and broad. Since teaching the first graduating class in offshore schools (Dalian, 1998), the OSR's career has been in offshore schools or international student services at a B.C. post-secondary institution. The OSR represents several offshore schools and has extensive experience working with the authorities in Chinese education.

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 principal comes to the School with extensive teaching experience in Canada, Colombia and China, and with previous administrative experience in other B.C. offshore schools in China. The principal's impact on the School is substantial, from the initial planning to the ongoing development of the school culture and program.

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 School has two bilingual administrative assistants conversant with the policy and procedural needs of both the B.C. program and the local Harbin educational authorities.

The School also has an "advisory board" consisting of three members with B.C. education experience, who support the School's long-term viability and serve as a liaison with the host school principal.



Commendation:

The School is commended for the quality and dedication of the administrative staff, and for establishing a board of supportive advisors committed to the B.C. program's long-term success.

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 student records were found to be up to date and well maintained. There is a formal Individual Education Plan (IEP) in place for a student with special needs.

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 teacher files are up to date and securely stored. There are criminal record checks in place for the two bilingual teacher assistants.

The Inspector confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch.

Two of the teachers have letters of exemption on file valid until December 7, 2018. In both cases, all of the necessary documentation has been submitted to the Teacher Regulation Branch and is currently being processed.

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 School is formally transitioning from the previous program to the new curricula. This includes developing course overviews and lesson plans drawing on the “know, do, and understand” dimensions of the new program. The Inspector observed lessons using a variety



of instructional strategies to reinforce the Big Ideas, Core Competencies and Key Skills. Teachers' course overviews and lesson plans incorporated various forms of assessment and the use of rubrics.

The School supports the implementation of the new B.C. program with a year-long professional development program for teachers that begins during their week of orientation prior to starting the school year.

Commendation:

The School is commended for implementing the new B.C. program while only in their second year of operation and with a small complement of staff.

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 uses the Ballard and Tighe Idea Placement Test (IPT) as their English language assessment test. It includes a written and oral component and is complemented with an interview with the principal.

The School supports continuous English language acquisition through the application of several strategies, including a school-wide reading program, the use of bilingual classroom assistants, multiple levelled reading texts in the library, two hour guided study periods four evenings a week, and the use of academic vocabulary notebooks in all subjects.

The Inspector observed how the small class size provided greater opportunity for students to develop and refine their use of English. The grade 9 "pre-B.C." program also helps develop readiness for success in the B.C. program.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the integrated approach they are taking to support students' English language acquisition, as well as for establishing a preparatory "pre-B.C." program.



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:

The School meets the course credit requirements articulated in the inspection catalogue. The School offers two Board/Authority Approved (BAA) courses, B.C. Learning Foundations 10 (YESL 10A) and B.C. Math and Science Foundations (YESL 10B). The MoE formal exemption letters are on file in the School.

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 School meets or exceeds the requirements for course overviews and planning. Each teacher has extensive course overviews and lesson plans, all of them aligned with the curricular framework of the new B.C. program.

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 School's two semester linear timetable ensures the instructional time allotment is met. The School is in session 180 days a year, with six hours of daily instruction beginning at 7:50am and ending at 4:10pm.



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 School uses a suite of assessment practices aligned with the requirements in the Inspection catalogue. The School is only in its second year (grade 10 and 11) so there is no provincial exam data to analyze.

The small class size is conducive to personalized learning, and the Inspector observed teachers using assessment strategies as diagnostic tools to support continuous student learning.

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 meets or exceeds the learning resources requirement for the B.C. program. The library is well stocked with “hi-interest-lo-vocabulary” fiction, levelled reading series, reading magazines and regular fiction (with strong Canadian content). The School has an inviting “learning commons” area, with study areas, reading material and internet access. The internet connectivity is weak and inconsistent.

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 student report cards meet Ministry standards as per the inspection catalogue. The School has interim reports sent to parents, and uses the bilingual support staff at parent-teacher conferences. The School uses WeChat to communicate with parents, as well as student planners to document learning.



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 exceeds the requirements outlined in the inspection catalogue. The handbook is a professionally printed bilingual document that covers all the important areas parents and students should know about, including the School's assessment policy, information about the B.C. Numeracy and Literacy Assessment examinations, attendance and discipline policy, academic support and English language acquisition support, and the School's dispute resolution process.

Commendation:

The School is commended for its very thorough, accessible and informative parent/student handbook.

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's handbook for teachers clearly outlines what teachers need to know to teach at the School, and more broadly, to be an educator in the B.C. offshore school program. The handbook covers everything from the school's mission to emergency evacuation procedures.

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 Inspector wishes to recognize the owner/operator, principal and staff of Harbin Zhongshi

- Canadian International School for:

- Implementing a comprehensive and realistic business plan that outlines a pathway to incremental growth and program sustainability;
- Making the long-term commitment to ensuring the B.C. program is successful in Harbin;
- The quality and dedication of the administrative staff, and for establishing a board of supportive advisors committed to the B.C. program's long-term success;
- Implementing the new B.C. program while only in their second year of operation and with a small complement of staff;
- Using an integrated approach to support students' English language acquisition, and for establishing a preparatory "pre-B.C." program;
- Developing a very thorough, accessible and informative parent/student handbook.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspector recommends to the Executive Director of International Education and Independent Schools that the British Columbia education program offered at Harbin Zhongshi - Canadian International School continue to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

