

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - SHENZHEN

SHENZHEN, GUANDONG PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 23-24, 2020

INTRODUCTION

On November 23-24, 2020, an online certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf International Academy - Shenzhen (MLIA-S) located in Shenzhen, Guangdong 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 (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 Edward Noot.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 28 students, in grades 11 and 12.

During the virtual inspection, the Inspector reviewed all standards required in the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal and BC teachers.

The Owner/Operator, China Maple Leaf Educational Systems, Ltd. (CMLES), is responsible for the BC program. MLIA-S is one of fourteen China Maple Leaf Educational Systems schools in China offering the BC program. There are other educational programs being offered on the same campus as the BC program such as a Chinese elementary and middle school program. All these programs are under the authority of China Maple Leaf Educational Systems.

The BC program's philosophy and objectives embody an educational philosophy that is based on the belief that through blending the best of the innovations and higher level thinking western educational model with the cultural richness and discipline of the traditional Chinese



educational model, students will be best prepared to meet the challenges of living and working in a more global society. The School assumes 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.

The Inspector would like to thank Maple Leaf International Academy - Shenzhen 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 Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The previous inspection report contained no requirements, and the suggestions were reviewed during the School's follow check-in on September 30, 2020.</p>			

BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>China Maple Leaf Education Systems' strategic plan projects ambitious student enrolment totals, both across their system and at individual schools. In the past few years, however, enrolment of students in the BC program has not met expectations, with enrolment in a declining pattern. Maple Leaf International Academy – Shenzhen is now in its third year of operation and is offering the complete BC program. While enrolment numbers to date are nothing short of disappointing, the School is highly focussed on developing and growing this program, believing that the programming, vision and breadth of this particular academy is the right fit for the city of Shenzhen. MLIA-S is distinct within CMLES as an elite academically orientated academy which requires all students to apply for admission and be accepted based primarily on academic ability. MLIA-S is well situated for growth with ample room at the current site.</p> <p>The current worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has been a significant factor, negatively impacting enrolment in private schools across China, and beyond. Although challenging, CMLES is well situated to weather this storm, and leaders are optimistic about rebounding enrolment once the pandemic is past. MLIA-S's current programing and staffing levels are only sustainable because they are part of CMLES.</p>		



MLIA-S is on the cusp of graduating its first class in June 2021. This milestone event will likely prove pivotal in securing increased enrolment. A graduating class gives the school added credibility and sustainability in the eyes of potential parents. It will also demonstrate a track record of graduates' acceptance into reputable universities worldwide. The importance of this milestone event cannot be underestimated in the future success of this school.

Commendation:

CMLES is commended for establishing this unique academically focussed academy within its system.

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 confirms that the Owner/Operate meets all requirements set forth in the Agreement.

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 was able to provide documentation dated 2017, indicating support and approval of the BC program by the appropriate governmental authority, the Longgang District Education Bureau; however, the approval letter does not fully comply with the requirements outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement. The School confirmed that they have been granted an extension to meet this requirement. Once proper documentation is obtained it should be immediately forwarded to the MoE.

The School should note that the BC MoE will also be requiring certified translations of school approval letters in the future.



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:

MLIA-S is located in a multi-building complex that includes all the necessary facilities to offer the BC program. The facility also includes unique speciality spaces such as dance studios, a golf simulator and a flight simulator. The cafeteria provides food services for all grades 1-12 students and the campus and dormitories house all the students in the BC program during the week. The grounds include badminton and tennis courts, an outdoor swimming pool, an artificial turf field space, a running track, basketball courts and play areas for younger children. The School has a bright and open floor plan with wide hallways and natural light.

The Inspector reviewed translated copies of building and cafeteria inspections. All reports indicate that the School is in compliance with local regulations and authorities and facilities are suitable to support the BC program. These documents include a local engineering assessment verifying the buildings are safe for occupancy. The School is reminded that in the future, the BC MoE will require certified translations of relevant reports.

The Inspector reviewed the School's comprehensive emergency preparedness plans for fire or any natural disaster requiring a school evacuation. The Inspector confirms that China Maple Leaf Education Systems has a plan in place for Maple Leaf schools in the event any of their schools face a temporary or permanent closure due to an unforeseen event. The plan has been signed by the Offshore School Representative (OSR) for Maple Leaf and the Superintendent.

In addition, the Head of Maple Leaf International Academy - Shenzhen has an emergency evacuation plan and has supplemented the Maple Leaf plan with specifics regarding the location of staff and students in the event of an unforeseen closure of the School.

The Inspector and Head of School reviewed emergency drill protocols and procedures, other emergency practices including the additional safety measures and protocols required by the Chinese government during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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 Owner/Operator has appointed an experienced individual to act as Offshore School Representative (OSR). The OSR meets the requirements set out in section 1 of the Agreement and has been confirmed by the BC MoE as suitable for this position.

The OSR contract was renewed on September 1, 2018. The Inspector confirms that the OSR is knowledgeable about all aspects of the School's operations and all related aspects of the Owner/Operator's business operations; particularly the governance, business and administrative functions of the Owner/Operator's operation of the School and that he is fully 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's operation.

The OSR works closely with the superintendent and deputy superintendent of CMLES. The comprehensive administrative structure of CMLES provides robust support for individual schools in this system.

The annual report indicated that the OSR is aware of his obligation to report, in a timely fashion to the Ministry any critical information relating to any changes in the operation of the School and/or ownership structure that could have a significant impact on the School's operation – including proposed changes to the Owner/Operator's governance structure, financial situation and student and/or teacher safety.

The BC MoE has reviewed the multiple roles filled by the OSR, with respect to Schedule B, Part II 3) of the Offshore Certification Agreement, and provided CMLES with an exemption which allows the current OSR to fill these multiple roles until June 2023.



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/Headmistress is an experienced BC administrator, who comes with significant experience and training for this role. She is currently in her second year at the School.

The Inspector reviewed the Principal's job description, which is the standard CMLES document. While the job description outlines the expected role in compliance with the Certification Agreement, it does not accurately reflect the somewhat unique administrative structure at MLIA-S. The inspector suggests that an update would be in order.

The CLMES principal contract is comprehensive and complies with all requirements under the Agreement.

The Headmistress possesses a valid Certificate of Qualification from the BC Teacher Certification Branch (TCB) which meets the requirements outlined in the Agreement.

Commendation:

CLMES is commended for securing a highly experienced and well-respected leader to develop this Academy in its formative stage.

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 employs a number of employees to provide various levels of administrative support to operate the School.

In addition to the significant support from China Maple Leaf Educational Systems, the School is assisted by a deputy head with primary responsibilities for the K-9 program and oversight of general affairs, an English head who provides additional English support to students as needed, an admissions office, a business/finance office, and an administrative office which provides support in human resources, foreign affairs, and information technology.

The Headmistress is also strongly supported with a bilingual administrative assistant.



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 School verified that student files are securely stored. The virtual inspection process allowed for the Inspector to view only limited files. They are maintained by the administrative assistant and contain all required elements including the current personal information consent forms for parents and students.

The School utilizes PowerSchool administrative software to manage student data.

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, as confirmed by Teacher Certification Branch verification response file dated, September 23, 2020.

All six BC program teachers hold valid COQs, with no restrictions. The School is reminded to observe expiry dates on interim certificates and to work towards permanent certification in a timely manner.

All locally certified teachers have evidence of valid certification and local criminal records checks on file.

Staff contracts were reviewed and found to be comprehensive, addressing all the required areas. Staff turnover at the School is not currently an area of concern. The Inspector appreciated that the staff are highly committed to building a strong program and to maintaining a positive school culture.

The Inspector confirmed that all teachers are employed under proper Chinese work permits and appropriate visas. Teacher files are in order and well maintained and include evidence that teacher evaluations are occurring as per school policy. A Headmistress evaluation by the Maple Leaf OSR is currently underway as per school policy.



Commendation:

The Inspector appreciated that the Headmistress and teachers are highly committed to building a strong program and to maintaining a positive school culture.

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:

MLIA-S benefits from a strong central office offering training, support, resources and ongoing professional development. The availability of wide-ranging professional development opportunities to both teachers and leaders in Maple Leaf schools is impressive.

The School has successfully implemented the new curriculum as is evidenced in planning documents reviewed by the Inspector and in conversations with the Headmaster, Superintendent and teachers.

The School demonstrated a strong understanding and utilization of the core competencies and big ideas which are evident throughout planning documents. Assessment practices are in line with the new curriculum and they remain an area for ongoing development within CMLES. First Peoples Principles of Learning are evident, but somewhat inconsistently applied. The Principles refer to the importance of time, place, identity and process in learning as opposed to content driven curricular connections. The Inspector suggests that First Peoples Principles of Learning are reviewed and, if necessary, adjusted for all courses in the BC program.

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 Inspector confirms that the School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition.

The Headmistress is responsible for overseeing, managing and making final decisions on student admission and assessment of English language skills. All potential students are personally interviewed by the Headmistress.



The School offers wide ranging support for English language acquisition. These efforts are coordinated by the central office and support teachers with programs and strategies.

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 Inspector confirms Mandarin 11 and 12 and Chinese Social Studies 11 as exempted courses, which are being appropriately employed. The school is offering BAA Psych 12 as a course this year, and they have completed the updated BC MoE course template.

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:

CMLES curriculum coordinators, under the direction of the deputy superintendent, have prepared course overviews, along with some unit and lesson planning templates that incorporate all the elements of the new curriculum.

The Inspector confirms that course overviews for all courses offered from grades 11 -12 are in compliance with the modernized curriculum. These overviews and accompanying lesson plan templates are a valuable instructional planning support for teachers, particularly those new to the BC curriculum.

The course overviews identify the big idea, First Peoples Principles of Learning, core and curricular competencies, and key ESL learning strategies.

The School maintains a schedule of ongoing professional development to continue to support teachers in their implementation of the BC curriculum.



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:

MLIA-S students are in session for a total of 1,040.5 hours per year, exceeding the 850 hours per year required by the Educational Standards Order.

The Inspector noted that the School coordinates a robust club program. The focus on clubs has shifted to student leadership so clubs are led by students with support from teachers.

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:

The Inspector confirms that the School meets the requirement for assessment methods as outlined in the inspection catalogue.

The use of BC Performance Standards is encouraged by admin. Teachers make extensive use of rubrics and 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 able to re-submit work and can demonstrate their learning in a variety of media.

Teachers use a variety of authentic assessment tools including projects and presentations, performance assessments and flexibility in the time needed for students to learn.

BC provincial assessments are invigilated according to Ministry of Education procedures.



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 Inspector confirms that School meets the expectations for learning resources as outlined in the inspection catalogue.

Students are assigned laptops and Wi-Fi is available in each classroom. Each classroom has an interactive display board. The School has a wide variety of facilities including a makerspace with 3D printers. Teachers use OneNote to share class resources with students. Wi-Fi connections have recently been added to the high school dormitories.

The School has a library which has comfortable seating and workspaces. The School has electronic resources available such as ProQuest and is building a collection of hard copy books.

All subject areas are supported by appropriate text and online resources. The operating practice is for the Principal to oversee and approve all learning resources, in consultation with teachers as subject matter experts.

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 has three formal report cards per year along with two formal sets of parent-teacher interviews. Parents are also contacted individually as needed.

Parents and students have access to student achievement information online through the PowerSchool Parent Portal.



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 parent/student handbook is a combination of central office policies and locally applicable policies and procedures. The handbook is bilingual, comprehensive and covers all required elements.

The Inspector was privileged to meet with some students of MLIA-S. The brief engagement was enlightening and encouraging.

Commendation:

The Inspector commends the ambitious, engaged and thoughtful students at MLIA-S, who were able to articulately share the benefits of the BC program to their educational journey.

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 teacher handbook meets the requirements as outlined in sections 2.25 of the inspection catalogue. It contains the requisite policies on staff dispute resolution, teacher evaluation, principal/vice principal evaluation, human resources policies, student supervision, and student admissions. China Maple Leaf Educational Systems has defined the employment relationship for all authorized staff as directed by the BC Ministry of Education.

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 does not offer distributed learning courses.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

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

- establishing this unique academically focussed academy within its system;
- securing a highly experienced and well-respected leader to develop this Academy in its formative stage;
- engendering high commitment of teacher and leadership to building a strong program and to maintaining a positive school culture; and,
- equipping ambitious, engaged and articulate students who were able to articulately share the benefits of the BC program to their educational journey.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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

