

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

SINO CANADA HIGH SCHOOL

SUZHOU, JIANGSU PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

DECEMBER 1-3, 2021

INTRODUCTION

On December 1-3, 2021, a virtual certification inspection was completed on Sino Canada High School (SCS) in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, People's Republic of China, referred to as the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine if the requirements for the British Columbia (BC) education program have been met, according to the *BC Offshore School Program Certification Agreement*. The inspection team (the Team), appointed by the Executive Director of the Education Policy Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Education (the Ministry) in accordance with the *BC Offshore School Program Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Dave Beeke and John Churchley, who served as Chair for this inspection.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 388 students in grades 10-12. The BC program shares the Sino Canada School campus with Chinese elementary, middle, and high school programs as well as a secondary A-level program. The entire Sino Canada School has an approximate enrolment of 2,200, most of which are boarding students.

During the virtual inspection of the School, the Team, to the best of their ability, reviewed all standards required in the *BC Offshore School Program Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), General Principal, BC Principal, BC Vice-Principal, BC teachers, academic advisors, and students.

The Owner/Operator, Shanghai Fengying Education Technology Co. Ltd., is responsible for the BC program as well as another secondary school in Jiangsu province.

The BC program's mission is to equip students with a powerful and diverse set of skills that will ensure success in an unpredictable and rapidly changing future. The School's philosophy includes graduate attributes of: an appreciation of learning, respect & caring for self, respect and caring for others, social responsibility, and a sense of belonging.



The Team would like to thank Sino Canada High School for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the virtual inspection.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Team confirms that the School has addressed the requirement in the previous inspection report. The School has updated the course outlines for Mandarin 10-12 to reflect the language and elements of BC's curriculum.</p> <p>The Team noted evidence of the actions taken in response to the suggestions from the previous inspection report.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Owner/Operator, Shanghai Fengying Education Technology Co. Ltd., has submitted a comprehensive business plan and the Team confirms that it outlines the sustainability of the program.</p> <p>The School is located midway between the major cities of Jiaxing, Suzhou and Shanghai. There are many international schools that compete for students in this region, but there is also a significant population on which to draw. In the past two years, the School has experienced a drop in enrolment due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been recent development in the area surrounding the School and the adjoining lakefront. As this continues, opportunities for recruitment may increase.</p> <p>The School has developed a recruiting plan that is shared and supported by both the Owner/Operator's Shanghai office and the BC Principal. The Principal is an alumnus of the School and is bilingual. His experiences and ability to communicate directly with parents about the advantages of the BC program at Sino Canada High School are a key feature of the plan.</p>		



Part of the School's vision and unique characteristics promoted in the recruiting plan is a balanced and holistic approach to education. This vision is targeted at a niche market looking for an international education that leads to acceptance at Western universities which is provided in a comfortable environment and features social and emotional development along with intellectual development.

Supporting this vision are a significant number of extracurricular activities and clubs provided by teachers and often initiated by student leaders. These activities reflect student interests and are a key feature of the school culture for students and the sponsoring teachers. These activities are very popular and are enhanced by the range of facilities available at the School such as a large gymnasium, a pool, a theatre, multiple arts studios, and equestrian activities. The School also offers a wide variety of courses to appeal to student interests. These range from applied skills and fine arts to academic choices.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the number and breadth of unique extracurricular activities sponsored by teachers to ensure students have opportunities for leadership development and a balanced educational experience.

The School is commended for developing a student recruiting plan that focuses on a niche market for the BC program within the competitive market for international schools in the area.



INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the Agreement.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment: The Team confirmed that the Owner/Operator meets the requirements set forth in the Agreement.</p>		
2.03 The Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the School, as outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment: The Team confirmed that the Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the School, as outlined in section 5.03 of the Certification Agreement.</p>		
2.04-2.05 The School meets building inspection/safety, food preparation/cafeteria and fire safety codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC program.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment: The School is located on a large 238-acre campus shared by approximately 2,200 students in kindergarten through grade 12. The campus is a former theme park location, so in addition to expansive academic buildings there are extensive recreational facilities such as a pool, a large gymnasium, playing courts, and a playing field with an artificial surface. The School has a plan to maintain and upgrade the facilities in this large site.</p> <p>The BC program has exclusive use of one building on the campus. The School has science labs, multiple visual and performing arts studios, five IT labs, and 50 classrooms dedicated to use by the BC program. There are also shared athletic facilities as well as a 400-seat auditorium.</p> <p>The Team reviewed local building, safety and cafeteria documents and permits with certified translations and confirm that local requirements are being met. There are multiple catering operators on this campus, all of which have appropriate certification.</p>		



The Team verified that different types of emergency drills are conducted as required. The School has procedures to respond to a variety of emergency situations including fire, earthquake, lockdown, other evacuation, and unplanned temporary or permanent closure of the School. Procedures are available in a Critical Response Binder found in each classroom. Health and safety protocols have been implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have been incorporated into the School's emergency plans. These plans have been vetted by the OSR for accuracy and functionality.

2.06 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The Owner/Operator must appoint an individual to act as an OSR. This individual must be confirmed by the Province and must meet all 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 in his first year in this role. The OSR is confirmed by the Province and meets all requirements in section 14 of the Agreement.

The Team confirms that the OSR 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's operations.

The Team appreciated the cooperation and participation of the OSR in the virtual 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 Team confirms that the Principal meets all requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the Inspection Catalogue.

The Principal is serving in his first year as Acting Principal of the School. He has previously served as vice-principal for one year, and prior to that had taught for two years at the School. He is an alumnus of the School, is bilingual, and has an extensive background in accounting. These attributes complement his passion for teaching and student success and are useful in his duties, including student recruitment and consultation with the Chinese 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 meets the requirements in section 2.08 of the Inspection Catalogue. The BC program has two administrative assistants. The BC program staff work with a broader administrative team at Sino Canada High School that provide supports in areas such as IT, HR, admissions, and finance. Communication with some of these departments is supported through a WeChat group which ensures quick and efficient responses to needs and problems. Additional support in marketing, HR, and other administrative areas is provided through the Owner/Operator's Shanghai office.

The Principal is provided with administrative time to fulfill his duties and is supported by the teaching Vice-Principal. In addition, there is an academic coordinator and a group of department heads and assistant department heads. These positions provide opportunities for curricular and administrative support, leadership development and as well as succession planning.

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 Team confirms that the School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.09 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

The School uses PowerSchool as the student information system. Students and parents have access to student achievement information through PowerSchool.

Student records are managed appropriately. Paper copies of student files are securely stored. Digital copies of student information are stored in PowerSchool, and detailed student demographic information is stored in Mandarin in spreadsheets as PowerSchool does not accommodate the Mandarin language.



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 Team confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education with the exception of three teachers on an approved Letter of Exemption (LOE) (valid until January 26, 2022, January 27, 2022, and February 16, 2022, respectively) pending Teacher Certification Branch (TCB) certification approval. The Team confirmed with the OSR that all documents have been sent to the TCB for these teachers and there is regular follow-up on the application process.

There is also one teacher not currently teaching in the BC program that is awaiting an LOE pending a Criminal Record Check.

The Team also confirms that locally-certified teachers have valid certification and criminal record checks as per local regulations.

Professional development opportunities have been offered for the whole staff, focusing on assessment practices and mental health featuring presenters from BC. Department meetings and informal collaboration help to build the professional knowledge and skill of teachers. Staff also have the opportunity to pursue individual professional development through an allowance.

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:

The Team interviewed the majority of teachers to review and discuss planning, assessment, resources and assorted school-wide matters in relation to curriculum implementation. Interviews provided evidence of quality teaching and learning including personalized learning, flexibility and choice, and high standards. Staff demonstrated an understanding of the BC curriculum components and shared evidence of implementation. In addition to several external professional development providers, the School's collaborative culture facilitates professional development with each other to develop knowledge and skill in BC's curriculum and pedagogy.

The Team enjoyed descriptions of creative implementation using educational technology and hands-on learning during many teacher interviews. The School is commended for the variety of learning experiences offered in the BC program. Although many opportunities for student



self-assessment of core competency growth were shared, the Team encourages the School to intentionally utilize these opportunities by considering ways to build core competency growth as unit learning targets.

Commendation:

The School is commended for its creative implementation of the curriculum through educational technology and hands-on learning.

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 Team reviewed the English language entrance assessment. It includes listening, grammar, reading comprehension, and writing portions. The Principal oversees the admission process and is responsible for making final decisions with respect to student assessment and admission.

The English department head is responsible for creating the exam versions and teachers are involved in marking them. The School has intentionally involved more BC-certified staff in the recruitment and assessment process. The test has been proactively fine-tuned by staff to ensure it facilitates student success in the BC program.

School-wide literacy is an active school goal at Sino Canada High School. All teachers are expected to support language development in their instruction. Lesson planning samples provided evidence of ongoing implementation of English Language Learner (ELL) strategies across the curricular areas. Experienced staff are utilized to support best practice implementation of ELL instruction.



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 proves three exempted courses, taught by locally-certified teachers (Mandarin 10, 11, and 12).

The School currently offers Game Design 11 (YCAIS 11) and Psychology 12 (YPSYC12) as approved Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses.

The Team confirms that the School has policies in place for course equivalency and course challenge.

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 Team reviewed curriculum planning documents, which give evidence of the School's linkage to BC's curriculum. The School utilizes the Atlas Rubicon program to manage curriculum mapping and lesson planning. Documentation and conversations demonstrate that the BC Education Plan continues to be effectively implemented. Many course overviews demonstrate how course content is used to focus on Big Ideas through essential questions, connect Curricular Competencies to learning activities, and plan for both formative and summative assessment opportunities.



2.22 The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in section 2.22 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 provides 172 instructional days per year with a total of 1,032 hours of instructional time each year. This exceeds the Ministry requirement of a minimum of 850 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:

The School places an emphasis on using a variety of assessments as outlined in BC's curriculum. Teachers who are teaching the same subject have collaborated for the majority of their assessments while ensuring opportunities for teachers to individualize assessments. One of the school goals is to have no zeros entered as a student mark. To support this, assignment completion is followed up through homeroom teachers and the success room. Students that are at risk of failing are tracked and provided with support to achieve success. Likewise, students that are "at risk of success" (on the cusp of an "A") are also supported to encourage a high level of achievement.

The School's assessment policy promotes student ownership and responsibility for their education by providing feedback and allowing for reflection on learning and self-improvement. The assessment policies are clearly stated in the staff handbook and specific departmental practices are shared by department heads. Assessment breakdown (final, common and uncommon) provides fair and equitable evaluation across all courses. The reassessment policy is a privilege that allows students a maximum of two reassessments per course to demonstrate their highest level of learning.

To ensure uniform marking and processes in the courses, the assessment policy requires 70% common and 30% uncommon summative assessments. All teachers teaching the same grade level and course sections should have 70% of their assessments and grades weighted equally. This policy requires teachers of the same course sections to communicate often to plan units together, create assessments together, ascertaining what quality of work to assign grades



(i.e. what should an 80% look like, a 70%, etc.), and cross-marking sessions to ensure all teachers of a course section are marking at relatively similar levels.

Commendation:

The School is commended for taking steps to ensure fair and consistent assessment practices aimed at student growth.

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:

Teachers report having access to resources and support to acquire additional resources as needed. The BC program is offered in spacious facilities allowing teachers to facilitate a variety of learning experiences.

The School employs full-time library staff who maintain a vast collection of resources. An annual budget is supplied to ensure the collection is improved each year and also to assist with the vision of having the library become an interactive learning hub for the School. The library is open in the evening for student study.

Several technology strategies have supported education at Sino Canada School. Moodle is utilized and each classroom has a dedicated computer and digital projector set up. Staff shared appreciation for the shift onto the PowerSchool platform.

The School has recently purchased various digital media equipment and resources that have become a rich addition to BC courses and extracurricular activities. Evidence was shared of meaningful integration of these resources facilitating student-growth opportunities in core competency skills.

The School has an internet bandwidth of 800 Mbps. However, staff consistently shared that Wi-Fi access can be challenging in the classrooms and other learning areas of the School. The School is encouraged to investigate ways to provide consistent, adequate, campus-wide Wi-Fi connectivity for efficient classroom learning experiences.

Commendation:

The School is commended for purchasing and utilizing media equipment and resources to facilitate core competency growth in students as well as contributing to student skills in new media and building positive school culture.



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 provides four progress reports to parents. A parent portal has been implemented in PowerSchool enabling parents to gain up-to-date mark and attendance data. The School's academic advisors, Vice-Principal, and homeroom teachers assist the BC-certified staff with regular parent communication. Parent meetings and parent-teacher meetings are regularly scheduled.

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 Team confirms that the parent/student handbook meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools. The handbook is printed in English and Mandarin versions and includes a policy and procedures for appeals and dispute resolutions.

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 Team confirms that the teacher handbook meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

There is a section outlining the policy for teacher evaluation and school-based administrator evaluation in the teacher handbook, but no specific procedures or forms. The handbook contains the policy and procedures for parent/student appeals and dispute resolutions. It also includes a helpful "who to call" list and a visual year-at-a-glance calendar, which is used as a collaborative planning tool to build school culture through events and school rituals.



2.28 The School meets the Online Learning requirements (formerly Distributed Learning) 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 a small number of online learning courses through the approved online learning service provider: School District 73 Business Company - Global Education. The School has a policy in place to determine equivalency for these courses to count as credit in the BC program. An academic advisor oversees the entire process and there is documentation logged in PowerSchool that tracks the student information for these courses as well as communication with Global Education. An on-site BC teacher monitors and assists the students taking these courses.

Remote delivery of regular on-campus courses is provided by two BC-certified teachers and meets the requirements of the BC Offshore School Program Continuity of Learning Policy.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative (OSR) of Sino Canada High School for:

- the number and breadth of unique extracurricular activities sponsored by teachers to ensure students have opportunities for leadership development and a balanced educational experience.
- developing a student recruiting plan that focuses on a niche market for the BC program within the competitive market for international schools in the area.
- its creative implementation of the curriculum through educational technology and hands-on learning.
- directly involving staff in student recruitment and entrance assessment.
- taking steps to ensure fair and consistent assessment practices aimed at student growth.
- purchasing and utilizing media equipment resources to facilitate core competency growth in students as well as contributing to student skills in new media and positive school culture.



SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of the Education Policy Branch that the British Columbia education program offered at Sino Canada High School continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

