

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

BRITISH COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - BANGKOK

BANGKOK

THAILAND

November 3-4, 2022

INTRODUCTION

On November 3 and 4, 2022, an onsite certification inspection was completed on British Columbia International School - Bangkok (BCISB) in Bangkok, Thailand, 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 Agreement). The Inspector, appointed by the Executive Director of the Independent Schools and International Education Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Education and Child Care (the Ministry) in accordance with the *BC Offshore School Program Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), was Henry Contant.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 20 students, in grades 10-12. There is also a preschool to grade 9 program on the same site with a total enrolment of 340 students. This program also employs a number of BC certified teachers and uses an international curriculum that has a strong English language component and by design is considered an appropriate pathway for students leading into the BC graduation program. The entire preK-12 international school complex is owned by the Tharnpanya Group.

During the visit to the School, the Inspector reviewed all standards required in the Agreement and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, various directors and deputy directors of the ownership group, the Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal, BC teachers, BC graduation program students in grades 10-12 and other Thai support staff employed by the School.

The Owner/Operator, Dr. Pakdee (Tharnpanya Group) is responsible for the BC program and the preK-9 programs. The Tharnpanya Group operates a number of other schools including a large private preK-9 Thai school of approximately 1300 students adjacent to the BCISB campus, and a technical university of approximately 4000 students. The total number of students enrolled in educational institutions operated by the Tharnpanya Group is approximately 5600 students.



The BC program's philosophy, objectives and special features are best summarized in parts of the School's mission and vision statements which describes teaching in an inquisitive environment encouraging students to be creative and critical thinkers, multilingual communicators and proactive global citizens, who lead active, healthy and balanced lives.

With the **BEAR** as the School's mascot, the School's aspiration is that its students are:

Brave, creative, imaginative thinkers (Thinking)

Expressive communicators who are thoughtful and reflective (Communication)

Analitical individuals who question and critique (Thinking)

Respectful of the physical and emotional well-being of themselves and others (Personal & Social)

Socially active and culturally aware (Personal & Social)

The Inspector would like to thank British Columbia International School - Bangkok for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the onsite inspection visit.

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 School satisfactorily addressed both requirements in the previous inspection report.</p> <p>Requirement #1:</p> <p>Permanent Student Record cards are now in each student file and the BC Principal created a student record checklist for the registrar to follow to ensure accuracy when maintaining student records.</p> <p>Requirement #2:</p> <p>All teachers have been authorized by the Ministry of Education and Child Care with either a valid BC teaching certificate or a current Letter of Exemption (LOE). In February 2022 the School registered with the <i>Make a Future</i> website so that it could target recruitment efforts directly to BC certified teachers.</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.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator has filed a business plan that strives to confirm the on-going sustainability of the BC program.

The plan identifies several goals, and each goal includes targets and the measures that will be used to determine if the goals have been met. These goals include:

1. Expanding the collection of student achievement data and utilizing the data to inform instructional strategies to promote and monitor academic success.

The context for this goal was that previously the School utilized many forms of standardized testing including Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) Test, Diagnostic Reading Assessments (DRA), and the School-Wide Write. The students were administered the tests, and the data was collected and stored. However, until recently the data was not commonly used to help teachers differentiate instruction within their classrooms, or effectively used to monitor student success and growth from each academic year.

2. Establishing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) that will lead to collaboration in instructional strategies, assessment techniques, and to promote transdisciplinary units of instruction.

The rationale for this goal is that PLCs allow educators opportunities to directly improve teaching and learning. PLCs allow teachers an easy way to share best practices and brainstorm innovative ways to improve learning and drive student achievement.

3. Increasing professional development (pro-d) school wide and offering all teachers, including specialist teachers and Thai teachers, the opportunity to seek pro-d opportunities both internally and externally to help improve best practices.

The business plan also addresses the School's most pressing challenge, namely recruiting students into the grade 10-12 program directly who have a strong enough English language acquisition to be successful in the BC graduation program. This is why the School's current recruitment focus is on the younger grades, students who have many more years to develop their English to a level that will provide them great success in the School's grade 10-12 program.



In addition, the School has utilized the talent of two new teachers by adding a high school music program to its' list of course electives. This is another initiative undertaken to make the BC graduation program more attractive for new and returning students.

Commendations:

The School is commended for moving towards incorporating student performance data analysis in its strategic planning process.

The School is also commended for adding music electives to its graduation program.

INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the Agreement.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the Agreement to operate a BC program. The Owner/Operator has been successfully operating within the BC Offshore School Program since 2007.

Commendation:

The Owner/Operator is commended for his continued support for the BC program, particularly through the lengthy and difficult period during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

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.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator has acquired a non-expiry approval agreement with the Private Education Commission of Bangkok. The School also has approval to operate from the Thai National Education Standards and Quality Assessment, with its own inspections which occur regularly.



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.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Inspector reviewed several translated documents on file addressing issues concerning building occupancy and building safety, the formal approval of certifying food safety and the School's food service, as well as a formal record of fire and other safety inspections.

The Inspector was able to view firsthand the School's facilities including the latest additions of a gymnasium, a full-sized outdoor swimming pool and an IT infrastructure upgrade that meets the current demands of the BC program. This IT upgrade was timely, particularly during COVID-19, when the School was forced to pivot between online and in-person instruction based on ever changing government regulations and requirements linked to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Inspector reviewed the School's emergency plans and confirmed it has included provisions for any event that would cause an unplanned temporary or permanent closure of the School. These plans have been vetted by the Offshore School Representative (OSR) for their accuracy and functionality. It also includes health and safety protocols developed and implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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) has been confirmed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and meets the requirements set out in the Agreement. The lengthy global pandemic with its international travel restrictions and lengthy quarantine requirements prohibited onsite OSR visits to the School for the past two and a half years, necessitating ongoing virtual OSR contact. The OSR was again able to make an onsite visit to the School just prior to the Ministry inspection and remained an active presence during the entire onsite inspection process.

Worthy of note is the fact that the end of the current 2022/23 school year will also mark the tenth anniversary of the OSR's service to the School. The School is fortunate to have



contracted an experienced OSR for such a length of time, providing a sense of continuity and a level of trust that has been built over the past decade.

The Inspector confirms that the OSR is aware of their 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.

Commendation:

The OSR is commended for ten years of continuous service and support to the School, providing a sense of continuity and a level of trust that has been built over the past decade.

2.07 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The current Principal is in her second year as principal at the School, having previously served the School as a BC-certified elementary teacher and Vice-Principal. Upon completion of her Master of Education in Educational Leadership and further experience teaching within the BC public school system she returned to Bangkok to become the Principal.

The Principal has worked diligently to continue the work initiated by the previous BC principal in implementing BC's curriculum. The Principal has provided particular guidance in implementing the First Peoples Principles of Learning in an authentic way throughout the grade 10-12 graduation program.

The Principal has demonstrated excellent curricular leadership within the School particularly in how she has expanded the collection of student achievement data and utilized the data to inform instructional strategies to promote and monitor academic success; encouraged differentiation instruction within the classrooms, and established Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) that are aimed to further facilitate collaboration in instructional strategies, assessment techniques, and to promote transdisciplinary units of instruction.

Commendation:

The Principal is commended for the curricular leadership she is providing, particularly in how she has utilized student achievement data to inform instructional strategies to promote and monitor academic success; encouraged differentiated instruction; and established PLCs aimed to further facilitate collaboration in instructional strategies, assessment techniques, and to promote transdisciplinary units of instruction.



2.08 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School is fortunate to have a competent team of bilingual support staff who support the BC program in the following capacity:

- Secondary Department Head;
- Secretary /Administrative Assistant to the Principal;
- Accounting Executive;
- Admissions Director;
- Student Registrar; and
- School Nurse.

Each person also serves as a bridge between the BC graduation program and the grades preK-9 school.

Commendation:

The bilingual support staff are commended for the vital role each play in supporting the BC program and serving as a bridge between the BC graduation program and the grades preK-9 elementary/middle school.

2.09 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.09 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Inspector confirms all items outlined in the Annual Report pertaining to student records are now in place, including a Permanent Student Record for each student.

Student and parent consent forms are updated annually. The School made a commitment to use the recently updated student and parent consent forms, reflecting the updated name of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, commencing the 2023/24 school year.



2.10-2.18 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.10-2.18 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Inspector confirms that four BC program teachers hold BC teaching certificates. Two additional BC program teachers have a current and valid Letter of Exemption (LOE) that expires on January 20, 2023.

The Inspector confirms that the Offshore School Representative (OSR) understands their obligation to provide an application status update by the first business day of each month, using the template provided during this exemption period until the teacher applicant's certification decision has been made.

The Inspector confirms that all Authorized Persons under the Agreement possess valid and current teaching certification under the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

The two teachers currently teaching with a current LOE were able to show (via a Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) screenshot) that all requirements for certification are now met. Therefore, the School expects that both teachers will be issued a teacher's certificate prior to the expiry date of their current LOE.

2.19 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.19 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Inspector was able to interview all BC program teachers and review curriculum documentation for courses taught in the graduation program. All required curricular elements such as Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies, Core Competencies, assessment, student self-assessment and First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) are well-documented in the course materials.

The Principal has worked diligently to continue the work started by the previous high school principal in implementing BC's curriculum. The Principal has provided particular guidance in implementing the FPPL in an authentic way throughout the graduation program.

Discussion is taking place as to how the School will meet the new Indigenous focused graduation requirement of four credits to be implemented in the 2023/24 school year.



Commendation:

The Principal is commended for providing particular guidance in implementing the FPPL in an authentic way throughout the graduation program.

2.20 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 2.20 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School has an English language learner (ELL) student support center that consists of both push-in and pull-out student support for grades 10-12. In this support area, students are frequently assessed to help determine their English language proficiency and to help best prepare them for the most suitable track of programming at BCISB. If students wish to enrol in the BC program, they must be at the proficiency level to set them up for success in the BC Graduation Literacy and Numeracy provincial assessments.

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 Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the course credit requirements for equivalency, challenge, and exemptions as outlined in the Annual Report.

Currently, the School does not offer Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses.

The School has permission to offer two exempted courses, namely Thai Language and Thai Language Foundations. This is important for the School as graduates of the BC program are also able to obtain a Graduation Certificate from the Ministry of Education in the Kingdom of Thailand certified by the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA).

In short, this provides graduates a dual high school diploma, one issued by the Ministry of Education and Child Care in British Columbia and the other issued by the Ministry of Education in the Kingdom of Thailand.

Occasionally, the School permits a student to enroll in an online course offered through the approved service provider, School District 73 Business Company Global Education. A current



example is that one student is enrolled in such a course, namely Fashion Industry 12. Credit for the course is granted by the School following an equivalency review.

2.21(f-g) The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. € of the Agreement; namely, that all BC program courses offered in the School meet or exceed Ministry learning outcomes/learning standards identified in the educational program guides for each course.

☐ Requirement Met ☒ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Through a review of relevant curricular documentation, unit plans, individual lesson plans, samples of student work, various forms of assessment as well as samples of student self-assessment, the Inspector was able to confirm the School meets the course overview/course planning requirements of the BC program. However, there is one exception. Therefore, the School's graduation program is encouraged to further develop its curricular compliance documentation in Art Studio 10, 11, & 12 to demonstrate more effectively to the Ministry the differentiation that exists among the three courses.

All required curricular elements such as Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies and Content, Core Competencies, First Peoples Principles of Learning, assessment, and student self-assessment are well-documented and align with BC's curriculum.

Commendation:

Teachers are commended for all the curricular planning and work done in embracing and further developing BC's curriculum. Teachers are assessing the Core Competencies throughout the grade 10-12 program and have planned effectively for student self-assessment in connection with the career life connections capstone project.

2.22 The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in section 2.22 of the Annual Report 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's instructional time allotment—five hours/day for 180 days (900 hours/year) exceeds the Ministry's minimum of 850 hours/year.



2.23 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School has an assessment policy that outlines when assessments should be carried out throughout units of instruction. Teachers utilize the student information system, *Alma*, to store their gradebooks and balance between both summative and formative assessments during the school year. The reporting period happens twice a semester with a progress report mid-cycle and a final report at the end of the semester.

The belief that assessment informs instruction is central to the philosophy of the School. Teachers are expected to utilize *Atlas* curriculum mapping as a program to vertically align BC'S curriculum and also to identify and track assessment practices throughout the School. All assessments are logged and stored through *Atlas* and the School's administration is able to effectively monitor this throughout the year.

2.24 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School employs a Resource Officer which is primarily a position to support teachers. Tasks include:

- keeping track of consumable supplies in the supply room.
- proactively ordering consumable materials so BCISB is always stocked.
- keeping track of classroom budgets and having regular contact with teachers.

The School has a well-resourced library for grades K-9. The high school resource section of print material is limited; however, high school students have full access to online resources.

Teachers, teacher assistants (TAs) and administrators are encouraged to sign out books to use in the classroom, for professional development or for personal use.

There are numerous teacher resources which may be signed out for the entire year. Any of these resources are housed in the Resource Room, such as games, science and math kits, models for science and health as well as scales, beakers, cylinders and other measuring tools.



Consumable teacher/classroom supplies are readily available in the well stocked supply room. The Resource Officer documents what has been taken and restocks supplies as required. Additional materials can be requested by filling in a request form and submitting to the Resource Officer. All teachers have a modest classroom budget that is documented by the Resource Officer.

The School has a library and employs a teacher librarian. The library is used for Language Arts classes, study sessions, and research. The library also includes multimedia resources such as online books and online periodical engines.

2.25 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

All parents have access to Google Classroom updates as well as an online gradebook. Parents keep in regular contact via email and have three formal conferences with teachers throughout the year. Interim reports are given out to parents when a teacher feels a student is at risk for failing. The administration also offers many parent information sessions either virtually or on campus when available.

2.26 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Inspector reviewed the School's updated 2022/23 parent/student handbook. The handbook contains appropriate information for students and their parents on such topics as the mission, vision, and core beliefs of BCISB, the curricular programs for the BC graduation program, student assessment, the School's schedule/timetable, and a number of school policies that directly impact students and their parents.

These include such items as expected student behavior and discipline procedures, health and safety issues, emergency procedures, student attendance responsibilities and unexcused absences, computer and internet usage, social media policy, appeal process, tuition fees and refunds, and academic advising.

In short, the BCISB parent/student handbook is relevant, informative and very helpful for parents and students alike.



2.27 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Inspector reviewed the School's updated 2022/23 teacher handbook. The handbook is well organized and contains detailed information required by teachers to help them understand their unique roles and responsibilities as professional teachers within the BC Offshore School Program in Thailand.

It clearly outlines the School's mission, vision, core values and key aspects of the BC program. It identifies teacher expectations, the teacher evaluation process, contracts, benefits, and the School's dispute resolution process. It also outlines the teacher orientation process and provides helpful information for teachers as they transition to the offshore school teaching environment in Thailand.

In short, the BCISB teacher handbook is informative, relevant and very helpful for teachers.

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 Annual Report for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met ☐ Not Applicable

Comment:

Occasionally the School permits a student to enroll in an online course offered through the approved service provider, School District 73 Business Company Global Education. Currently one student is enrolled in such a course, namely Fashion Industry 12. Credit for the course is granted by the School following an equivalency review.

2.29 The School meets the requirements for offering Remote Instruction under the BC Offshore School Remote Instruction Policy and as outlined in section 2.29 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met ☒ Not Applicable

Comment:

Currently the School does not provide any Remote Instruction.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative (OSR) of British Columbia International School of Bangkok for:

- the Principal, administration and teachers' preparedness and active engagement during the Offshore School Inspection.
- the positive culture and ethos that exists within the School. Given the low student enrolment and small class sizes, teachers are able to build meaningful and caring relationships with students. A collaborative atmosphere also exists among the staff.
- all the curricular planning and work done in embracing and further developing BC's curriculum. Teachers are assessing the Core Competencies throughout the grade 10-12 program and have planned effectively for student self-assessment in connection with the Career Life Connections Capstone Project.
- the School moving towards incorporating student performance data analysis in its strategic planning process.
- the addition of music electives to its graduation program.
- the Owner/Operator's continued support for the BC program, particularly through the lengthy and difficult period during the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- the OSR's ten years of continuous service and support to the School, providing a sense of continuity and a level of trust that has been earned over the past decade.
- the Principal's curricular leadership in utilizing student achievement data to inform instructional strategies to promote and monitor academic success; encouragement of differentiated instruction; and establishment of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) aimed to further facilitate collaboration in instructional strategies, assessment techniques, and to promote transdisciplinary units of instruction.
- the Principal's particular guidance in implementing the First Peoples Principles of Learning in an authentic way throughout the graduation program.
- the bilingual support staff's vital role in supporting the BC program and serving as a bridge between the BC graduation program and the preK-9 elementary/middle school.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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

