Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

CANADA BRITISH COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS - ZIBO

ZIBO, SHANDONG PROVINCE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022

INTRODUCTION

On November 16 and 17, 2022, a virtual certification inspection was completed on Canada British Columbia International Schools-Zibo (CBCIS-Zibo) in Zibo, Shandong 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 Agreement). The inspection team (the Team), 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 Agreement, consisted of Trish Smillie and Henry Contant, who served as Chair for this virtual inspection.

The School's BC program has been in existence since 2009 with a current enrolment of 108 students in grades 10-12. Part of the current enrolment growth is due to the fact a number of grade 11 and 12 students transferred to the School from CBCIS-Langfang when it closed suddenly in August 2022. The BC program is located on the campus of Zibo No. 11 Middle School campus which was established in 1956. The entire school, which houses the BC program, enrols approximately 4,000 students.

During the visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the Agreement and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), CBCIS Superintendent, BC Principal, BC teachers, the International Director, Academic Advisor and other Chinese support staff and a cross section of students in grades 10-12.

The Owner/Operator, Sunny Bai, CEO of Beijing Kezhi Times International Consulting, is responsible for the BC program. Sunny Bai owns three other BC offshore schools in China, having recently suspended operation of CBCIS-Langfang. In addition, the Owner/Operator is responsible for several more international schools associated with other provinces, and Lowell



High School, a Group 4 independent school in Vancouver, BC that operates an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. Previously, students in all CBCIS schools in China were presented with the opportunity of participating in either short-term camps or longer programs of study at Lowell High School. Once the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are over and seamless international travel resumes without quarantine measures in place, it is hoped this program will again commence.

This system of BC offshore schools is known as Canada British Columbia International Schools or CBCIS.

The BC program's philosophy, objectives and special features haven't changed since the previous inspection and include:

- preparing students for success in a rapidly changing world by providing a supportive learning environment that recognizes and respects individual differences, encourages students to challenge personal limits and promotes excellence;
- enabling all students to develop their potential to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for success in their future lives; and
- having the goal of ensuring that each student is prepared to face up to future challenges and can discover his/her own potential to lead a successful life.

The Team would like to thank Canada British Columbia International Schools-Zibo for its cooperation and preparedness for the virtual inspection visit.

The School has satis	sfactorily addressed req	uirements contained in	the previous inspection	
☑ Requirement Met	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	□ Not Applicable	
Requirement: The School currently offers Calculus 12 online provided by their sister school in Vancouver — Lowell High School, and this is supervised by the School Principal. The School needs to ensure that a school-based BC certified teacher is responsible for planning, delivering, assessing and reporting. The School is required to receive written authorization to offer Online Courses outside of School District No. 73 Company - Global Education.				
Pursuant to the requirement outlined above: planning, delivery of course material, and assessment was undertaken locally by the Principal with assistance from the Vice-Principal – both have BC teaching certificates. This requirement was satisfied via the submission of the required documentation and was subsequently approved by the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care.				



Among the suggestions given in the previous report, the School has been:

- amending yearly plans to include full course names and course codes in the documentation, and Core Competencies and First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL).
- continuing staff discussion and ongoing professional development regarding the integration of Core Competencies and FPPL in lesson delivery and classroom activities.
- starting to collaborate in the area of student assessment with the goal of continuously increasing alignment between classes and targeting areas for student improvement.
- continuing to pursue all possible measures to improve internet connectivity at the School, although the host school claims they are unable to increase bandwidth.

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 unique challenges that CBCIS-w students into the BC program. T		
as districts within the city of a further afield attend the School governmental regulations pu	is the city center comprised of five Zibo and the surrounding area. Infool based upon word of mouth and tin place within the last year now be regulations stipulate that all prothe School is located.	frequently, students from d reputation. However, new preclude this from happening.	
schools and school fairs. The (not limited to BC offshore sc	e meant that the School faces limit global pandemic has also resulted chools) considering the advisability has also had a significant impact	d in parents throughout China y and feasibility of having their	
3. There is increased compet	ition from two local schools offeri	ng IB programs.	
_	CIS-Zibo and the host school, Zibo to increase enrollment particularl	_	



issues. The School was fortunate to see an increase in student enrolment this year, however, this was due in part to the temporary closure of CBCIS-Langfang.

Efforts are being made to retain current students and boost recruitment through parent meetings, the retention of a CBCIS-dedicated university preparation agent, and the promotion of the BC program through informing all stakeholders of the advantages of this unique school model.

INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

2.02 The Owner/Operator m	eets all requirements as set fort	h in the Agreement.
⊠ Requirement Met	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met
-	es to meet the requirements set unity to have a brief discussion v	_
•	system of four BC offshore school I Schools (CBCIS) brand, and an ii	•
for supporting the CBCIS syste professional development an	s a British Columbia based superi em schools and teachers with cui d program administration. CBCIS system able to provide such sup	rriculum implementation, - Zibo benefits from being part
Offshore School Representati support staff all spoke of the	represented by both the system's ve (OSR). The BC Principal, BC prostrong support they received from International Consulting Compa	ogram teachers and Chinese m the staff of the parent

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	
Education and Zibo No. 11 M authorization to operate remupdating/extending the auth	ation detailing the agreement behindle School to host the BC prograins in effect until 2022, and that orization has the attention of the	am. It was noted that the the the matter of School's administration.	
one expires.	hool to seek an updated letter of	approval before the current	
	building inspection/safety, food s. The facilities are deemed to be		
☑ Requirement Met	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	
whether or not the current for However, by reviewing the d of the facilities on the School students, the Team confirms	f a virtual inspection, the Team wacilities are deemed suitable to suocumentation provided, reviewing website, and in discussions wit that the facilities are suitable for ire and cafeteria compliance docu	upport the BC program. Ig available pictures and video In BC program teachers and In offering the BC program.	
campus. It houses eight BC cl	n and fifth floor of one campus bu assrooms, three homerooms, thr ces, BC staffroom, two Chinese st	ee locker rooms, a drama	
labs, host school track & field	r own dining hall, the host school d and courts (basketball, volleybal ormitories. There are no significar	ll, etc.). Students have the	



Zibo No. 11 Middle School has a well-stocked medical clinic and doctor on duty, 15+ hours/day. COVID-19 testing has been conducted at minimum every 48 hours.

The Team confirmed that the School has detailed emergency plans in place, including a manual that identifies scenarios, protocols and appropriate response strategies.

In the event of an unplanned temporary or permanent school closure, students from Zibo can be reassigned to one of Kezhi's other BC program campuses in China, or to Lowell High School in Vancouver, BC. Unfortunately, the CBCIS system needed to enact this system-wide school closure plan with the sudden closing of CBCIS-Langfang in August 2022. This resulted in some Langfang students transferring to CBCIS-Zibo to continue their BC program studies. In addition, some CBCIS-Langfang teachers also transferred to CBCIS-Zibo.

The School reported participating in all routine emergency drills conducted by the host school and follows a Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan. If needed, the School is prepared to pivot again to a Remote Learning situation.

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 an experienced educator and administrator having worked for 12 years in an offshore school BC program in China early in his professional career. He has also worked in the international student department at a British Columbia university for a number of years prior to becoming an OSR. He was appointed OSR of CBCIS-Zibo in 2015.			
The Team was able to meet with the OSR prior to the inspection, and he was available during the inspection process. Although not having been onsite at the School since before the global pandemic, the OSR stays in regular contact with the School, the BC Principal, the Superintendent, and the Owner/Operator and appears to have a solid and realistic understanding of the current situation at the School. He accurately described the staffing dynamics and administrative operation within the School.			

In short, the OSR maintains a strong network among the other BC program OSRs, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and other school principals and teachers within the BC offshore school community and leverages these relationships appropriately to further support CBCIS-



Zibo. He, too, is looking forward to travel restrictions being lifted so that he can once again be onsite visiting all the BC offshore schools he is supporting.

The OSR is aware of the legal 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.

Commendation:

Albeit limited because of the travel restrictions due to the global pandemic, the Offshore School Representative (OSR) is commended for his continued efforts to support the School remotely through the recruitment of teachers for the BC program, his support for the BC Principal who has limited experience as a principal within the BC Offshore program, and his interactions with the CBCIS system Superintendent.

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 Principal is an experienced educator serving in his seventh year as principal of the School and is now the longest serving principal within the CBCIS system. He has served in international schools in China, Egypt, and Thailand for the past 24 years.			
After having experienced BC program teachers teaching remotely from their country of origin (South Africa, United Kingdom and Canada) for extended periods of time during COVID-19, the Principal is once again enjoying the opportunity to build a cohesive learning community among the BC program teachers.			
providing a sense of continuit	ve contracted an experienced pri ty and a level of trust that has be owed the Principal to establish st ese school.	en cultivated over the past	



2.08 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.			
of the Affidal Report for offshore schools.			
☑ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Partially Met ☐ Requirement Not Met			
Comment: The Team confirms that the School provides the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Annual Report. The Principal is supported by a Chinese Administrative Assistant and five additional Chinese support staff assigned primarily to CBCIS-Zibo. These individuals assist with recruiting, admissions, finances, university and academic advising, staff visas and permits, the library, facilities and accommodations. The International Director is the primary liaison with the host school. CBCIS has hired a BC superintendent to direct and support the administration team in CISBC - Zibo and the other CBCIS international schools. The Owner has an agent working for Kezhi (CBCIS) to assist with student post secondary selection, applications, and visa applications.			
It should also be noted that the previous Vice-Principal chose to transfer to another school and currently the School does not have a vice-principal.			
2.09 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.09 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.			
⊠ Requirement Met			
Comment: Given the limitations of a virtual inspection, the Team reviewed a sampling of student records and confirmed files contained all required elements including each student's Permanent Student Record (PSR), BC program registration form, English language entrance assessment results, previous year report cards, student self-assessments and student and parent consent forms.			
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.			
2.10 2.10 of the Annual Report	TOT OTISTIOTE SCHOOLS.		
⊠ Requirement Met □	Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	
Comment:			
The Team confirms that four BC	. –		
program teacher, currently living valid Letter of Exemption (LOE) t	•		
The team confirms that the Offsl	hore School Representative (O	SR) understands their	
obligation to provide an applicat	·	•	
The Team confirms that all Auth	norized Persons under the Agr	eement nossess valid and	
current certification under the N		-	
The Team was able to review tro	unclated decumentation to veri	ifutbat all lacal tagabars are	
The Team was able to review tra appropriately certified, and that		-	
the local teacher certification pro	• • •	_	
2.19 The School meets the requi	irements for curriculum imple	ementation outlined in section	
2.19 of the Annual Report for of	fshore schools.		
☑ Requirement Met	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	
Comment:			
The Team confirmed that the Sch	• •	·	
documents examined demonstration Core and Curricular Competencies		•	
has committed to ongoing profe	•	<u> </u>	
teaching methodology and asses	•	•	
The School has indicated that the	e School is accessing professio	nal development to	
incorporate a competency-based			
assessment and the FPPL.			
The School indicated challenges	with accessing online resource	es aligned to BC's curriculum.	



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The Team commends the detailed unit and lesson plans that were provided showing detailed planning for teaching and learning.

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		
	B of the Agreement, the Princip decision with regards to admissi	9		
A student must meet performance requirements on the Zhong Kao Chinese exam and demonstrate 50% English proficiency on the Kezhi BC offshore school English entrance exam. The exam is administered in May/June by the Principal or designate and students write this assessment again under direct Principal supervision in August prior to acceptance. Those students who score between 50-60% on proficiency requirements are monitored and may be placed on an individualized learning plan.				
The School uses a variety of classroom-based assessments to monitor students' language acquisition. English teachers complete reading and writing formative assessments at the start of the semester and throughout the school year to track English reading and writing levels. Most courses utilize a school-developed rubric for spoken language proficiency evaluated approximately every six weeks. The School enrols each student in a Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) English second language (ESL) course in grade 10. Grade 10 students also have English tutoring three times per week with a Chinese English teacher.				
The School administers a school-wide write using the instructions and rubric for the former grade 12 provincial English assessment twice each year during the graduation program. English Studies 12 is offered as a double block in grade 12. The language arts courses use the provincial literacy assessments as resources to monitor progress.				



	the course credit requirements (s) as outlined in section 2.21 (a-		
☑ Requirement Met	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	
Comment: The Team confirms that the School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions, and Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses) as outlined in section 2.21 of the Annual Plan. English second language (ESL) – Canadian Studies 10 is offered as a BAA course to all grade 10 students.			
Exempted courses offered by locally certified teachers include: Mandarin 10, 11, and 12. A letter granting permission for the exemptions are on file. The curricular and planning documents align with BC's curriculum.			
Physical and Health Educatio the BC Principal.	n (PHE) 10 is taught by a BC certi	ified teacher with oversight by	
in Schedule B Part I, 2. € of t	he course overview/course plan he Agreement; namely, that all /linistry learning outcomes/lear for each course.	BC program courses offered in	
☑ Requirement Met	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	
the requirements established	by the Ministry. Courses have a t, teaching strategies, and assess	ered and confirm that they meet an overview, unit plans, and daily sment methods that are linked	



2.22 The School meets the inst 2.22 of the Annual Report for of sections 1.1 to 6, with the exce Ministerial Order 41/91, the Ed School Act.	offshore schools, including the eption of s. 4(5)(b), 4 (6), 5 (8)(a) and (d) and s. 5.3 of	
☐ Requirement Met ☐	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	
Comment: The Team confirms that the Sch There are 189 days in session w operates on a semester system	vith five hours each day totallin		
2.23 The School meets the assorthe Annual Report for offshore	•	ts as outlined in section 2.23 of	
☑ Requirement Met □	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	
Comment: Examination of course outlines, and unit and lesson plans show evidence that the teachers use a wide variety of teaching strategies and assessments. Detailed descriptions of the teaching strategies and assessments are included in all documents.			
The School uses BC Performance Standards to ensure that assessment aligns with BC's curriculum. Strategies for assessment are discussed at staff meetings and individual administrative-teacher conferences. The Principal reviews student results with teachers at reporting periods and results from school-wide writes and provincial assessments are reviewed and analyzed to adjust teaching and learning methods.			
Graduation Literacy and Numeracy Assessments are electronically administered. Instructions and passwords are retained and secured by the Principal until the exam date. Electronic assessments are not opened until the time the exams are to be written. Electronic literacy and numeracy assessments are administered in a controlled environment and are monitored by BC teachers. All locally written assessments are monitored by teachers to ensure exams rules are followed.			



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 has access to a library for BC students that is open during school hours. There are approximately 580 English language reading selections comprised of approximately 380 fiction titles, 80 non-fiction titles, and 120 reference texts. There are multiple textbooks and resources for teachers to support the implementation of BC's curriculum. There are eight computers and two printers available for student use. The library has eight computer workstations. The School has a computer lab including 40 student computers, one staff computer, and one printer.					
Each classroom is equipped with a Smartboard with internet connectivity. There is also one portable Smartboard primarily used in the drama studio and for assemblies.					
Although the agreement between the host school and the BC offshore school program makes provision for use of science laboratories, in reality the School finds access challenging.					
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: Formal student progress reports are issued four times a year (November, January, April, and June). Student self-assessment of Core Competencies are included in reporting for January and June. Parent meetings are held at each reporting period to provide parents with any important information about student assessment. Students receive translated I-plan reports prior to reporting periods to inform parents of academic concerns. Parent meetings are organized following reporting periods in November and April to provide parents with any updated information regarding the implementation of the curriculum and graduation assessments.					

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 Team reviewed the School's updated 2022/23 parent/student handbook. A Chinese translation of the handbook follows the English version, section by section for easy reference in both languages.				
The handbook contains appropriate information for students and their parents on such topics as the mission and philosophy of CBCIS-Zibo, introduction of school staff, the curricular framework for the BC program grades 10-12 including graduation requirements, extracurricular opportunities for students, the School's schedule/timetable, student conduct, parental appeals, admission requirements, emergency procedures and school policies that directly impact students and their parents. In short, the bilingual CBCIS-Zibo parent/student handbook is relevant, informative and helpful for parents and students alike.				
The Team verified that the parent/student handbook meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the Annual Report.				
the Annual Report for offshor	icher handbook requirements a e schools.	as outlined in section 2.27 of		
☑ Requirement Met	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met		
Comment: After a year of many BC program teachers teaching remotely, the current teacher handbook has taken on new meaning and relevance. The Team reviewed the School's updated 2022/23 teacher handbook. The extensive handbook contains detailed information required by teachers to help them understand their				
unique roles and responsibilities as professional teachers with the BC offshore school program in China.				
It is prepared centrally by the CBCIS system and contains content related to professional matters, school organization, assessment and evaluation, and school policies and procedures.				



It contains details of the system's teacher evaluation procedures as well as staff resolution policy and procedures.

The Team confirmed that the teacher handbook is comprehensive and meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the Annual Report.

	_	•	Distributed Learning) as nual Report for offshore		
☐ Requirement Met	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	⊠ Not Applicable		
Comment: The School is not cur	rently offering Online Le	arning.			
	ets the requirements for note Instruction Policy a schools.	_			
☑ Requirement Met	☐ Requirement Partially Met	☐ Requirement Not Met	□ Not Applicable		
under the BC Offsho	hat the School has met r re School Remote Instruc us 12, and Economics 12	ction Policy. The School	offers Anatomy and		
Teacher support for Remote Instruction is provided to students during the BC school day.					
 The Team confirms the following with regards to offering Remote instruction: the appropriate approval is on file in the form of the BC Offshore School Program Remote Instruction Course Planning Form. 					
certified by a	aught by a teacher holdi Canadian province hold ore School Program (Lett	ling temporary authoriza			
	employed by the School acilities, and resources of	•			
• teachers are instructing one class of students from one school during a class block of					



- an English-speaking teacher's assistant is in the classroom to support students during the remotely instructed course.
- the School is providing Remote Instruction related professional development.
- students enrolled at the School and taking a remotely instructed course are onsite unless local authorities have implemented restrictions preventing students from attending in-person.
- the School is offering a maximum of eight credits of courses in grade 10 and 16 credits of courses in grade 11 and 12 each school year of remotely instructed courses.
- a student is on track to earn a maximum of 24 course credits between Grades 10 and 12 of remotely instructed courses.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

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

- the preparedness and active engagement of the Principal, administration and teachers during the offshore school inspection.
- the excellent work and adaptability of BC program teachers in providing remote teaching supported by the BC Principal, Offshore School Representative (OSR) and the Superintendent as they continued to operate the School through the ongoing challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- the seven years of service by the Principal at the School, providing a sense of continuity and high level of trust within the school community which cultivated strong relationships with key leaders within the host Chinese school.
- the vital role that the bilingual support staff play in supporting the BC program.
- the School's effort to maintain regular communication with parents and students through WeChat groups, parent committees, and written notices and the work of Chinese head teachers who act as translators for the BC staff.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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

