

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF FOREIGN NATIONALS SCHOOL – DALIAN

DALIAN, LIAONING PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 1, 2023

INTRODUCTION

On November 30 and December 1, a certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Dalian (MLFNS-Dalian) in Dalian, Liaoning 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 Darren Spyksma and Dr Laurie Anderson, who served as Chair for this inspection.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 79 students, in grades K to 9. The School consisted of two stand-alone sites up until the beginning of this year when the downtown campus was closed and the program consolidated at the KaiFaQu campus.

During the visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the *BC Offshore School Program Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the Superintendent of China Maple Leaf Education Systems (CMLES), the Offshore School Representative (OSR), the BC Principal and BC teachers.

The Owner/Operator, China Maple Leaf Educational Systems (CMLES) is responsible for the BC program. CMLES offered the first BC offshore program in 1997 (in Dalian) and has grown into an international education system with over 46,000 students in China and other Asian countries. The BC program's philosophy, objectives and special features include the belief that the fusion of the best of western and Chinese educational philosophies and practices best prepares students to flourish in our global society. The School also believes that children's innate desire to learn is the basis for their educational growth.



The Team would like to thank Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Dalian 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>There were no requirements in the previous report. The suggestion to further incorporate the First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) into the School's curriculum has been implemented, including a week-long fair focusing on Indigenous Technology (Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies).</p>			

BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care, 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 School's business plan submitted to the Ministry is thorough and well-organized. The focus is, appropriately, on post-COVID-19 recovery and attracting more foreign families to the School. The School's enrolment in 2019 was 152, is currently 79, and the enrolment target for 2028 is 180.</p> <p>The Principal has implemented a multi-faceted marketing plan to achieve the School's enrolment goal. This includes promotional partnerships with the other two Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals Schools (Yiwu and Wuhan), collaborations with local chambers of commerce (US, Japan, etc.) and local hotels, and a social media campaign (e.g. the School has a YouTube channel, a website and is on Instagram showing student demonstrations).</p> <p>The School's goal for Section 2.30 of the Annual Report (Continuous School Improvement for Student Outcomes) is to provide equitable opportunities for all students in both academic and cultural programs. Evidence of this goal was found in both classroom practices (engaging and challenging learning activities) and in the various clubs and programs the School has (cooking club, Japanese dance club, student council).</p>		
<p>Commendation:</p> <p>The Principal is commended for his comprehensive strategic marketing plans to increase enrolment.</p>		



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 Owner/Operator meets all requirements in the Agreement. The Owner/Operator opened the first BC offshore school in Dalian in 1997. The company, Maple Leaf Education Systems (MLES) has schools throughout China and in Malaysia and Singapore.</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 Owner/Operator has the necessary written approval to operate the School. This includes a School License Certificate issued by the Dalian Civil Affairs Bureau.</p>		

2.04-2.05 The School meets building inspection/safety, food preparation/cafeteria and fire safety codes/regulations. 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 meets all the regulatory standards necessary to support the BC program. This includes regular evacuation drills and a contingency plan should the School have to be closed indefinitely. The Offshore School Representative has vetted the safety plans and procedures.</p>		

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 Schedule B, Part II of the Agreement.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment: The Offshore School Representative (OSR) has been confirmed by the Province and meets all the requirements. The OSR brings extensive expertise and experience both in BC's independent and public system, and is the former Superintendent of the China Maple Leaf Education Systems (CMLES) and resident of Dalian.</p>		



Commendation:

The School is commended for hiring an educational leader with vast offshore and domestic experience as its Offshore School Representative.

2.07 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in Schedule B, Part III of the Agreement and Section 2.07 (b) of the Annual Report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Principal meets the requirements in the Agreement. Although this is the Principal's first year as a principal, he brings 13 years of teaching experience, curriculum development and administration knowledge in Dalian to his role.

Commendation:

The Principal is commended for his strong leadership skills and initiatives, and for building the School's capacity for offering students and their families a strong and engaging BC program.

2.08 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in Section 2.08 of the Annual Report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the requirements set out in Section 2.08 of the Annual Report. This includes a half-time head teacher and four bilingual administrative assistants (including a marketing coordinator). The Team noted how well organised and efficiently the administrative team carry out their responsibilities.

2.09 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in Section 2.09 of the Annual Report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The requirements for Section 2.09 of the Annual Report are being met. The Team examined 24 random student files from K to 9 and all of them were complete and well organised. The Team confirms that the updated 2022/23 parent consent form was in use.



2.10-2.18 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in Sections 2.10-2.18 of the Annual Report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the teacher certification requirements in Section 2.10-2.18. The Team confirms that all Authorized Persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

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:

Detailed plans, combined with vibrant learning environments and interviews of staff and students confirms that BC program implementation exceeds minimum requirements. Core competency self-reflection was evident in all areas of the School and is part of the regular learning practices. The School continues to look for new and meaningful ways to incorporate the First Peoples Principles of Learning, including combining them with curricular competencies from language arts, Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies, and social studies, culminating in a project on how modern technology was first developed by First Peoples.

Commendation:

The School is commended for having self-assessment of Core Competencies as a regular part of the learning practice in each class.

The School is commended for the strong alignment between documentation and practice.



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

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Students are assessed upon entry and a plan for English language acquisition is established by the school team. The School has English language learning (ELL) support in the School that combines both small group, short-term pull-out programs, and ongoing in-classroom support. The program is so successful that students who are not in need of support want to be part of the ELL pull-out groups. The ELL support teacher and the classroom teacher work as a team to support each student. The School also completes benchmarking to ensure growth in reading and writing. The School tracks this data and uses it to support learning and professional development.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the collaboration present in addressing the language acquisition needs of each student.

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.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School does not offer any Board/Authority Authorized courses. Students take Mandarin learning to understand writing, speaking, and cultural connections to the language. Students also have an opportunity to participate in clubs twice a week. The wide variety of clubs comes from student interest, teacher aptitude, and outside support. These clubs are used as a way for all students to practice and develop various core and curricular competencies.

Commendation:

The School is commended for their robust, diverse clubs program.



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 Ministry learning outcomes/learning standards identified in the educational program guides for each course.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School has worked hard to ensure that all planning requirements have been met. Learning documents include Big Ideas, Core Competencies, curricular competencies, content, learning activities, assessment practices, and methods for differentiation. Increased clarity on how expectations and assessments are different when two grades are taught together would strengthen the program.

Commendation:

The School is commended for ensuring that all learning plans were detailed and in use in the classroom.

2.22 The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in Section 2.22 of the Annual Report, 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 Team was able to confirm that the anticipated instructional hours for the 2023/24 school year is 1017.5.

2.23 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in Section 2.23 of the Annual Report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Formative and summative assessment practices along with regular self-assessment and goal setting is present in all classrooms. Teachers use benchmarking data, Foundations Skills Assessment results, and classroom information to adjust programs to meet the needs of the students. Clear tracking of student progress is evident in classrooms. Teachers also take the opportunity to expand individual learning through the use of peer assessment in some classrooms.

2.24 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in Section 2.24 of the Annual Report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School is well resourced. Each teacher confirmed that they had the resources they needed to be an effective teacher. Physical and Health Education supplies including basketballs, spike ball, badminton, and other supplies are more than adequate. The library is robust and well-stocked with varied resources to match learner interest.

Commendation:

The School should be commended for supporting their teaching staff by making resources readily available.

2.25 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in Section 2.25 of the Annual Report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School has recently finished redesigning their communication of learning to align with the new reporting requirements. The first issuing of the new report format was during the inspection. Parents have access to weekly communication from teachers using a digital platform, they participate in monthly presentations of learning, and have the opportunity to participate in parent/teacher conferences and student-led conferences. Formal reports are issued at the end of each term and include the use of proficiency scales and descriptive feedback using BC curricular competencies.



Commendation:

The School is commended for creating a reporting template that is informative, aligned with the new BC reporting order, and balances the needs and interests of families.

2.26 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in Section 2.26 of the Annual Report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The parent/student handbook is current for the 2023/24 school year. The handbook contains an appeals and dispute resolution policy, as well as policies on student conduct, admissions, assessment, and reporting.

2.27 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in Section 2.27 of the Annual Report.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The teacher handbook has been updated for the 2023/24 school year and that the Province is not liable in any event, instance, or circumstance where the Owner/Operator is found to be in contravention of the laws or requirements of the country of operation.

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.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

The School does not currently offer courses via Online Learning.

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.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

The School does not currently offer courses via Remote Instruction.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative (OSR) of Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Dalian for:

- the Principal’s comprehensive, strategic marketing plans to increase enrolment.
- hiring an educational leader with vast offshore and domestic experience as its OSR.
- the Principal’s strong leadership skills and initiatives, and for building the School’s capacity for offering students and their families a strong and engaging BC program.
- offering self-assessment of Core Competencies as a regular part of the learning practice in each class.
- the strong alignment between documentation and practice.
- the collaboration present in addressing the language acquisition needs of each student.
- supporting their teaching staff by making resources readily available.
- creating a reporting template that is informative, aligned with the new BC reporting order, and balances the needs and interests of families.
- ensuring that all learning plans were detailed and in-use in the classroom.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of the Independent Schools and International Education Branch that, the British Columbia education program offered at Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Dalian continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

