

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF FOREIGN NATIONALS SCHOOL – WUHAN

WUHAN, HUBEI PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 27 – 28, 2023

INTRODUCTION

On November 27 and 28, a certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Wuhan (MLFNS-Wuhan) in Wuhan, Hubei 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 37 students, in grades K to 9, on its own campus. The Maple Leaf World School – Wuhan (MLWS-W) – which houses a grade 10 to 12 program, is located a short drive away, and is part of the larger educational complex of Maple Leaf Education Systems (MLES). The main campus includes a Chinese elementary, middle school and high school, the Maple Leaf World School Program, and the administrative offices of MLWS-Wuhan. The School will be moving to the larger MLES-W facility in February.

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 School's Offshore School Representative (OSR), the Superintendent of MLES, the headmistress of the Maple Leaf Schools in Wuhan, the BC Principal and the BC teachers.

The Owner/Operator, China Maple Leaf Educations Systems (CMLES), is responsible for the BC program. CMLES established the first BC offshore school program in China in 1997 and has since opened schools at all levels across China and in other Asian countries.



The BC program's philosophy, objectives and special features include a strong belief that its students will be best prepared for their future in a global society with an education that blends the best of both western and Chinese educational ideas and practises. The School aspires to grow and build their reputation as a global competitor in the international school market. The School's philosophy also embraces diversity, inclusion and multilingualism, and values risk-taking, perseverance, teamwork, critical thinking and a growth mindset.

The Team would like to thank MLFNS-Wuhan 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 contained in the previous inspection report.</p> <p>The suggestions contained in the previous report were adopted by the School.</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 Team confirms that the business plan is fully documented within the School's Annual Report. The critical challenge for the School is enrolment, affected significantly by the slow return of foreign families to Wuhan. The Principal has made a concerted effort to promote the School, both in partnership with the two other foreign nationals schools (Yiwu and Dalian) and locally in Wuhan by attending events at consulates and other venues where expatriate families are involved, and in collaborating with the other six international schools in Wuhan.</p> <p>The Wuhan expatriate community was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and recovery is slow but steady. The move to the main campus in February, where there are more facilities and resources, is considered to be a positive factor in the School's enrolment goals.</p>		



As part of the Maple Leaf system, and over the last several years, the School has been implementing plans for continuous school improvement for student outcomes. These include a major emphasis on students' English language development.

Commendation:

The Principal is commended for developing and implementing a multi-faceted marketing plan to increase student enrolment.

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:

All the requirements in the Agreement have been met by the Owner/Operator.

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 the necessary approvals to operate the School, with all documents in Mandarin and English. The approvals are from both the provincial level (Hubei) and from the city level (Wuhan Education Bureau).

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.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets all regulations in Section 2.04-2.05 and has suitable facilities to support the BC program. The School operates over three floors and has an additional roof top deck used by students on the fourth level. There is a large cafeteria in the School and all students live at home and commute to the School.

The School has clear policies and procedures pertaining to fire drills, pandemics, lockdowns, etc., as well as a contingency plan in place should an emergency necessitate re-locating the School. The School will be moving in February to newer facilities on the main campus.



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.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Offshore School Representative (OSR) meets the requirements for the position as per the Agreement. The OSR is the former Superintendent of China Maple Leaf Education Systems (CMLES) and also has years of senior leadership experience in the BC independent school system.

Commendation:

The School is commended for hiring an experienced OSR who is familiar with both the BC system and the BC Offshore School Program.

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 has been working in the China Maple Leaf Education Systems (CMLES) for 14 years, the last seven being served as principal of the School. Previously, the Principal both taught in the CMLES and served as an educational coordinator and curriculum developer.

Commendation:

The School is commended for employing such a seasoned educational leader as the Principal.

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 administrative support requirements as per Section 2.08. This includes a bilingual school secretary and an administrative assistant. As part of the larger MLES organization, the School also receives administrative support from the Wuhan office of MLES.



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 School meets the Student Record requirements. The Team looked at every student file and found them complete and well organized. The Team noted that the updated BC Ministry of Education and Child Care 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 as per Section 2.10-2.18. This includes three teachers with valid and current Letters of Exemption.

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:

The School has dedicated time and energy to ensure that curriculum in use reflects BC's current curriculum. Student, teacher, and administrator interviews demonstrated a strong, alignment between the planning documents and classroom implementation of BC's curriculum.

Staff and students were able to speak informatively about how self-assessment of Core Competencies and goal-setting were integral to daily instruction, and also included in reporting to parents.

While the School's long-term goals to incorporate First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) are in progress, the School was able to show multiple ways that the FPPL were integral to instruction and student learning.



The School staff team works diligently to provide clubs that incorporate competency development with student and teacher interest. The daily schedule provides students with multiple opportunities for physical activity. Cross-grade cooperative learning is facilitated through the School's "buddy" program, and the School's multi-grade "house" program provides an opportunity for students to acquire the skills of sportsmanship, leadership and collaboration.

Commendation:

Staff are commended for ensuring there is a strong alignment between their planning documents and their classroom practice.

The School is commended for the variety of initiatives (clubs, intra-murals, Orange Shirt Day, house activities, etc.) that supplement and improve both learning and school culture.

The School is commended for being awarded the CMLES' "Innovation in Teaching" award, in recognition of the student-led "House Days" the School holds.

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:

Language assessments are conducted upon admission to the School. Students that require extra support are referred to the English language learning (ELL) teacher. The ELL program is a combination of short-term pull-out support and integrated ELL support in the classroom, primarily during literacy instruction. Parents receive learning updates monthly and these updates include the most recent level of growth in English language arts. At the time of the writing of this report 68% of students benefitted from ELL support.

Commendation:

The Principal is commended for ensuring that there is substantial ELL support for students.



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:

As a K-9 school, MLFNS-W does not offer Board/Authorized Authority (BAA) courses. Beginner and advanced Mandarin language courses are part of the daily program. Mandarin teachers are locally certified and have undergone criminal record checks.

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 meets the course overview/course planning requirements. Interviews and observations revealed that the documentation was reflected in classroom practice. The plans included learning activities, assessment strategies and opportunities for individualized instruction. Assessed learning standards are either drawn directly from curricular documentation or slightly modified from curricular documentation to reflect the learning context.

Commendation:

The School is commended for ensuring that learning standards are taught and directly assessed as part of reporting.

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 verified that the School exceeds the required time allotment. The scheduled instructional hours this year will exceed 1000.

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:

The School is implementing the new reporting order and making use of proficiency scales and learning standards to guide their assessment practices. Using formative assessments, teachers adjust the learning schedule to meet the individual needs of students. Data from assessments are used to support professional development plans and to guide teacher practice.

Students participate in the grade 4 and grade 7 Foundations Skills Assessment (FSA) and the data from the tests is used to improve instruction.

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. The library has over 7000 fiction and nonfiction books, including books related to Indigenous communities of BC. The School also has novel study resources and growing personalized classroom libraries. The teachers have access to a resource room, science equipment, technology, and their own classroom budget for resources. The Principal works with the staff to ensure that they have the resources they need to support student learning.

The School recently won an “Innovation in Teaching” award and used the prize money to augment school resources.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the investment in learning resources across grade levels and subject areas.



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 communicates to families monthly about their child’s learning progress. Using three formal reports, two parent/teacher conferences, two student-led conferences, and three interim reports, parents have a clear understanding of their child’s progress. The progress reports include the use of the proficiency scale with separate comments about student work habits and attitude toward learning.

Teachers also communicate home multiple times a week using a digital platform. The School complies with the new reporting order while also communicating to families based on their expectations and needs, including an appendix for letter grades as some countries demand the use of letter grades upon return to their native school system.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the frequency and variety of communication between home and school.

The School is commended for fully implementing the new reporting order while also adapting to the unique needs of families across multiple nationalities.

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 Team confirms the presence of an updated parent/student handbook meeting the requirements outlined in Section 2.26 of the Annual Report. It is made available digitally and in print form with options for translation as necessary.

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 Team confirms the presence of an up-to-date and detailed teacher handbook for the 2023/24 school year.



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 Online Learning courses.

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 Remote Instruction courses.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

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

- developing and implementing a multi-faceted marketing plan to increase student enrolment.
- employing a very experienced OSR who is familiar with both the BC system and the BC Offshore School Program.
- the investment in learning resources across grade levels and subject areas.
- the frequency and variety of communication between home and school.
- fully implementing the new reporting order while also adapting to the unique needs of families across multiple nationalities.
- ensuring that learning standards are taught and directly assessed as part of reporting.
- ensuring that there is substantial English language learning support for students.
- ensuring there is a strong alignment between staff planning documents and their classroom practice.
- the variety of initiatives offered at the School (clubs, intra-murals, Orange Shirt Day, etc.) that supplement and improve learning and school culture.
- their aware of the CMLES' "Innovation in Teaching" award, in recognition of the student-led "House Days" the School holds.



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 – Wuhan continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.