

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

SINO BRIGHT SCHOOL NO. 8

BEIJING

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 2 - 3, 2023

INTRODUCTION

On November 2 and 3, a certification inspection was completed on Sino Bright School No. 8 (SBS8) in Beijing, 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 Dave Beeke and Dan Miles, who served as Chair for this inspection.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 19 students, in grade 12. This will be the BC program's last graduating class as the School completes its three-year winddown of the program. The program is housed within Beijing No. 8 High School Yi Hai Campus International Department which has an enrollment of 151 students. The BC program is one of eight schools located in the gated community of Yi Hai and is the only foreign language program. The grade 7-9 Chinese language program has 180 minutes per day of English language instruction by local teachers integrated with the mathematics, social studies, and science curriculum.

During the inspection, the Team reviewed all standards required in the *BC Offshore School Program Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), the Principal of the host school, BC Principal, BC teachers, an academic advisor, and groups of students who took the Team on a tour of the facilities.

The Owner/Operator, Yufang Sun, is responsible for the BC program. Her company, Beijing Sino Bright Education Co. Ltd., also operates a group 4 independent school in Vancouver, BC. The Owner/Operator also has six other schools in China not affiliated with the BC education system and has a partnership with the Powell River school district. The BC program's mission statement is as follows:



The Sino Bright BC Offshore School Program is designed to offer educational choice to Chinese students interested in expanding and opening their educational horizons. Using an organized set of learning activities based on the North American curriculum, we will enable students to develop individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes required in a modern industrial society. Our further intent is to prepare our students to be able to successfully enter a western school system to achieve higher levels of education.

The Team would like to thank Sino Bright School No. 8 for its cooperation and preparedness for the on-site inspection.

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: The School had no requirements from last year's report. The Team acknowledges the work put into responding to the suggestions from last year's report.</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: The Team reviewed the business plan submitted to the Ministry. At the time of this report, enrolment was limited to the grade 12 class only. There continues to be substantial interest in the BC Offshore School Program; SBS8 could double or triple the enrolment capacity of the BC program as there are the classrooms to do so, however, student enrolment is being dictated by the local Education Bureau. Currently Sino Bright Schools operate non-BC programs in other Chinese cities. As the Owner looks ahead, she hopes to continue the BC program either on the current site or at some of the other schools in other cities that Sino Bright currently operates from.</p> <p>The School has a goal to continue reducing the percentage of identified at-risk students to 5% or less of the student population.</p>		



Commendation:

The Team commends the Owner/Operator for her ongoing commitment to offering a quality BC program despite the uncertainty of the government's political direction for the coming years. She continues to be committed to supporting all BC staff through the upcoming closure of the program.

The Team commends the ongoing commitment to offer and staff a quality BC program despite the uncertainty of enrolment for the coming years.

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 has operated the School since its opening in 2008. She has actively ensured that all requirements are met on a yearly basis. She also operates a Sino Bright sister-school (group 4 independent) located in downtown Vancouver.

Her qualifications and experience in operating the School enables her to meet all the requirements of the Agreement.

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 Team reviewed translated copies of the following approval documents for the School:

- the business license issued by the Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce (expires May 30, 2030).
- the registration certificate issued by the Beijing Fengtai District Education Committee (expires January 8, 2024).
- the approval to operate a BC offshore program issued by the Beijing Fengtai Education Committee (issued November 2, 2020, with no expiry date).

The approvals meet requirements as outlined in the Agreement.



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 Team reviewed documentation and had a tour of the facilities led by two students and the Principal. The Team completed a visual building safety inspection, fire safety and cafeteria/food service licensing and has confirmed that the School meets the necessary safety codes and regulations.

The Team reviewed the fire drill evacuation and epidemic prevention and control plans for the Beijing No 8 High School Yi Hai Campus International Department and the natural disaster emergency plan for the School. Plans have been vetted by the Offshore School Representative (OSR) for accuracy and functionality. The tour of the facility confirmed the preparation done by the School through drills.

The Team visited the site and confirmed that the School is in a large single building of six stories, which is in the gated community of Yi Hai. The building contains 40 classrooms in addition to the library, three computer labs, four science rooms, dance studio, music room, multi-purpose room, cafeteria, and auditorium. It has a large cemented outdoor area that can be used for basketball and track. The BC program shares the specialty space with other programs in the building. Overall, the facilities are deemed suitable to support program.

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's (OSR) career spans four decades during which she has taught students ranging from kindergarten to university. The OSR is a passionate educator with a keen interest in the development of language, in particular reading and second language acquisition. International education has been part of her portfolio both as a school-based administrator and as an assistant superintendent. She has been the OSR for a school in the Middle East for the past five years and this is her second year as OSR for SBS8. The Team had a virtual meeting with the OSR who was not able to be in person due to budget considerations.

The Team examined the OSR's job description and confirmed that her responsibilities meet the requirements of section 14 of the Agreement.



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 worked at the School for eight years. He also holds the position of Assistant Superintendent which includes various responsibilities connected to the other schools in the Sino Bright system.

The Principal has had extensive and varied experience as an educator, having served as a public-school principal in the Burnaby school district, district principal responsible for community and continuing education, a mathematics coordinator in two districts, a faculty advisor, a sessional lecturer in the Department of Math and Science Education at the University of British Columbia, a publishing consultant, and a curriculum writer. During his career, he has contributed much to the professional growth of his colleagues.

He values professional learning as a key to delivering a quality education program and strongly supports and encourages his teaching staff. The School is well served by the instructional leadership provided by the Principal. He also continues to have a positive attitude and outlook as the School faces an uncertain future. The Principal is supported by a Vice-Principal, who has taken on several administrative tasks as well as providing instructional leadership.

Commendation:

The Team wishes to recognize the Principal of Sino Bright School No. 8 for the leadership during these uncertain and challenging times as he recruits and supports new staff and works in close cooperation with the Owner/Operator to ensure a successful grade 12 completion for the students.

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 Team met the Academic Advisor from the host school who provides support for securing work visas and accommodations, library services, student discipline and attendance, and general program support. He also provides translation, office support as well as academic advising for students. Technology support is also provided by the host school.



The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08.

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 Team reviewed all the student records.

The Team confirmed the presence of all required elements including BC program registration form, English language entrance assessment results, Permanent Student Record (PSR), student and parent consent forms (updated for 2023/24) and prior year report cards.

All student records are in full compliance with the requirements outlined in section 2.09 of the Annual Report.

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 has a professional staff of three teachers and one administrator who are assigned to the BC program. Two teachers hold a Certificate of Qualification (COQ), one teacher has a non-expiring Independent Schools Certificate - Subject Restricted (ISTC-SR), and one teacher has a Letter of Exemption (LOE).

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

The School employs one locally certified teacher who holds a valid Chinese teaching certificate issued by the Beijing Municipal Education Commission dated June 9, 2020 and has provided evidence of a local criminal record check (CRC).

Professional development continues to be a focus for the Principal and staff. The two experienced teachers and the Principal worked together in the 2022/23 school year to focus on: at risk students, English language learning (ELL) strategies, technology integration, assessment and evaluation options, performance standards, electronic resources and professional ethics. The Principal also accessed a professional learning community on-line that permitted him to work with other principals across the country. The experienced



teaching staff at the School are very collaborative and supportive of each other and welcoming to the newest teacher. Professional development and thoughtful conversations about teaching, learning and assessment occur both formally and informally.

Commendation:

The Team commends the Principal and staff of Sino Bright School No. 8 for the collegiality and cooperation between local and offshore staff working in the Sino Bright program as a team to support student success.

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 supplied the Team with overviews detailing each of the courses currently offered in the BC graduation program. Due to constraints set by the local education authority, the School is presently unable to provide grade 10 or 11 courses.

The Team reviewed curriculum implementation documents and participated in conversations with the Principal, Vice-Principal, teachers, and students. During the interviews, the teaching staff demonstrated an extensive understanding and passion for the key components of BC's curriculum. The School embraces the curriculum's focus on Core Competencies. All elements of BC's curriculum were evident in the course overviews.

The Team was particularly impressed with the articulate responses from the interviewed students. They exhibited a strong command of the English language and engaged in meaningful dialogues with the Team on various topics, ranging from career choices to sharing their experiences as students in the BC program.

Commendation:

The Team commends the Principal and staff of Sino Bright School No. 8 for the collaborative and supportive culture amongst staff that ensures the key components of BC's curriculum are understood and embedded in classroom pedagogy.



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:

The School supports English language proficiency through staff professional development, ongoing assessments, and ensuring adequate resources are available for staff and students. Assessments are discussed in meetings with teachers for implementation into their classrooms. All grade 12 students will be required to write the grade 12 BC Graduation Literacy Assessment.

English language development and identifying and supporting at-risk students are priorities for the Principal, who oversees data collection, supports discussion with teachers, and facilitates resources to these 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:

The School currently offers one course taught by a locally certified teacher: Physical and Health Education 10.

The team verifies that the School has established an equivalency review policy.

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 Team conducted a review of curriculum planning documents, finding substantial evidence that courses for grade 12 students align with BC's curriculum.

Interviews with teachers further supported the conclusion that instructional planning is in clear accordance with the curricular frameworks of BC's curriculum. Course overviews are inclusive of Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies, content, First Peoples Principles of Learning



and Core Competencies. The planning documents also include details on teaching and assessment strategies.

Commendation:

The Team wishes to recognize the Principal and staff at the School for the detailed daily lesson plans shared during the inspection that authentically connect the components of BC's curriculum including the Core Competencies and First Peoples Principles of Learning.

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 had the opportunity to examine both the annual school calendar and the daily schedule. The School is in session for a total of 194 days this year, with each instructional day spanning 7.25 hours. The Team verifies that the cumulative instructional time at the School amounts to 1406.5 hours, surpassing the stipulated minimum requirement of 850 instructional hours outlined in section 2.22 of the Annual Report for Offshore Schools.

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:

Through classroom visits, teacher interviews and course outlines, the School illustrated that assessments encompass a variety of methods across the units. These methods are in alignment with BC's curriculum, with a significant emphasis on competency-focused approaches. It is evident that teachers are using a variety of assessment instruments to determine student progress.

The Team was able to review several rubrics collaboratively created by the teachers. Teachers also demonstrated regular use of formative assessment, student self-assessment and peer assessment.

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



Commendation:

The Team commends the School for facilitating one-on-one formative assessment with the significant investment in small class sizes as teachers support students in their courses.

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:

Through discussions with the Principal, teachers and students, as well as on-site verification, the Team confirms that the educational resources available to students meet the required standard.

The Team verified the library print resources, but most of the learning resources used by the students are accessed from online sources.

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:

Parents and students are informed via the handbook and on course syllabi how students will be assessed and what the criteria are for success. Students are aware of when assignments are due and how they will be graded.

The School communicates student progress and achievement throughout the year with four scheduled formal reports and two parent teacher conferences. Interim reports are provided as needed, particularly for “at-risk” students. If necessary, parents can also meet with BC teachers to discuss student progress and interventions. Homeroom teachers are in frequent contact with parents. Teachers submit monthly reports for “at-risk” students and regular team meetings are held to provide meaningful and consistent assistance to those students. Parents are contacted and often invited to meetings with teachers and administration.

The Team was able to review several term report cards, interim reports, and “at-risk” student interim reports. The Team confirms that the School meets the Student Progress Report Order requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the Annual Report.



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 School's parent/student handbook thoroughly outlines requirements, procedures, policies and operational practices for students and parents. The handbook includes a statement of personal responsibility that must be signed by each student.

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 reviewed the School's teacher handbook, which covers all policies related to employment in the School, teacher responsibilities, and contractual obligations. The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the Annual Report.

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 have any students enrolled in 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 Sino Bright School No. 8 for:

- the ongoing commitment to offering and staffing a quality BC program despite it being the final year of the program.
- continuing to be committed to supporting all BC staff through the upcoming changes in the BC program delivery.
- the leadership during these uncertain and challenging times, provided by the Principal, as he recruits and supports new staff and works in close cooperation with the Owner/Operator to ensure a successful grade 12 completion for the students.
- the collegiality and cooperation of local and offshore staff working in the Sino Bright program as a team to support student success.
- the collaborative and supportive culture amongst the BC staff that ensures the key components of BC's curriculum are understood and embedded in classroom pedagogy.
- the detailed daily lesson plans shared during the inspection that authentically connected the components of BC's curriculum including the Core Competencies and First Peoples Principles of Learning.
- the significant investment in one-on-one formative assessment as teachers support the students in their course work.

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 Sino Bright School No. 8 continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

