

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GUANGXI GAOJIE

NANNING, GUANGXI PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

OCTOBER 11-12, 2023

INTRODUCTION

On October 11 and 12, a virtual certification inspection was completed on Canadian International School Guangxi Gaojie (CISGG) in Nanning, Guangxi 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 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 Agreement, was Rebecca Block.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 16 students in grade 12. This will be the BC program's last graduating class as the School completes its three-year planned withdraw from the BC Offshore School Program. The School is housed on the campus of Nanning #3 High School which has an enrolment of 3,300 students.

During the virtual inspection of the School, the Inspector, to the best of their ability, 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), BC Principal, BC teachers, local support staff and students.

The Owner/Operator, Nanning Gaojie Education Consultant Co., is responsible for the BC program. CISGG has had a long-standing partnership with a high school located at Vancouver Island University (VIU) as well as with the university itself. Students have, in the past, attended for-credit courses and English immersion activities at VIU each summer. These activities have been on hold since the COVID-19 pandemic and have not been resumed due to the closure of the School at the end of June 2024.



The BC program's mission statement is as follows:

CISGG aspires to prepare each student as a responsible and positively contributing new generation global citizen who is empowered with the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes he/she will acquire from the well-articulated BC curriculum delivered in the context of long-established Chinese culture. CISGG will prepare each student for success in an increasingly globally interconnected world.

The Inspector would like to thank Canadian International School Guangxi Gaojie for its cooperation and preparedness for the virtual 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:</p> <p>There were no requirements to be met from the previous inspection report. The School has made efforts to respond to the three suggestions contained in the previous 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:</p> <p>The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care (the Ministry), which includes the phasing out of the BC program by the end of June 2024, and the provision of an educational program which ensures that the last BC graduating class is able to meet graduation requirements and secure admission to post-secondary institutions. A fully qualified BC staff of three are providing a program to 16 students.</p> <p>It is anticipated that all 16 students will graduate on time. In the case that a student does not meet the graduation requirements by the end of the school year, there is an alternative plan in place to support the student to graduate and obtain the BC Dogwood Diploma through the high school at Vancouver Island University.</p> <p>The School's Director of University Applications has worked collaboratively with the grade 12 Head Teacher and the BC Principal to ensure that students are well positioned to make informed decisions about their post-secondary education.</p>		



Prior to this year, the School had implemented a data-driven decision making model that analyzes student performance data to inform school planning. At present, the School is focused on tracking, monitoring and supporting each individual student and their unique learning needs in order to achieve graduation in this last year of operation.

Commendation:

The Owner/Operator is commended for maintaining a high level of teacher staffing to ensure that the final graduating class has sufficient credit options that will allow them a clear pathway to graduation and eligibility for post-secondary programs.

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 identified in the Agreement.

Commendation:

The Owner/Operator is commended for his continued support of the BC program over the last decade.

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 School has approval to operate during the 2023/24 school year, and then must cease operations. The School does not have approval to operate past this final year.

The Owner/Operator had a five-year agreement to operate the School at its current site at Nanning #3 High School, and this expired on July 31, 2022. A Letter of Notification, dated January 18, 2022, stipulates that the above-mentioned agreement will not be renewed and the Owner/Operator has written approval to operate the School until students who were recruited in 2021 have graduated (until June 2024). The Letter of Notification also stipulates that no further enrolment of grade 10 students is permitted as of September 2022.

The building currently housing the BC program has been designated for demolition, to be replaced with a new structure intended to provide additional classrooms for the expanding Chinese national program.



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 Inspector reviewed the following building and safety compliance documents with indicated approval dates. The documents are non-expiring.

- Cafeteria/Food Service—March 1, 2015
- Fire Safety—May 10, 2020
- Emergency Plan—September 2, 2020; and
- Building Safety—September 25, 2020

The School provided certified translations of all building and safety compliance documents and the Inspector deemed the facility to be suitable to support the BC program.

Emergency plans are extensive and cover many potential situations, including procedures for any event that would cause an unplanned temporary or permanent closure of the School. The Offshore School Representative (OSR) has vetted the emergency plans for accuracy and functionality.

The School has access to eight classrooms on two floors of a building including a computer lab, a small library/learning commons and a dedicated art classroom. The Principal's office, shared-teacher office and the local staff office are located close to the classrooms on the same floors. Shared facilities such as the auditorium, sports track, basketball and volleyball courts, swimming pool and cafeterias can be used by BC program students, but scheduling some of these spaces remains a challenge.

The health clinic at the School has one doctor and two nurses on duty; in the case of a serious emergency the School would contact the local hospital for emergency assistance.

Approximately 60% of BC students live in the school dormitories, while the remaining 40% commute daily to the school from their homes. The School has dormitory supervisors who provide 24-hour supervision and a nightly roll call is completed to keep records of students on leave.



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) has held this position for over a decade and currently provides service to two schools, both within China. His experience in the BC education system is extensive, having served as a public school district Superintendent and Dean of the Faculty of Education at a BC university. The OSR's thoughtful demeanour contributes greatly to the mentoring relationship he has with the BC Principal. He meets all of the requirements set out in Schedule B, Part II of the Agreement.

The OSR is aware of his 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.

The OSR made himself available throughout the inspection process and was very helpful in responding to inquiries.

Commendation:

The OSR is commended for his active involvement with the BC program over the last decade, notably for his support in helping the School navigate the phasing out of the BC program and for serving as advisor and mentor to the BC Principal.

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 is in his second year at the School, having served as a vice-principal and head teacher in his previous seven years at the School. His past teaching experience in Haida Gwaii (BC), along with his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Lethbridge (AB), have positioned him well as a young and passionate leader who genuinely cares about each student's success. The Principal has his BC certification and meets the requirements of the Agreement.

Currently the Principal is teaching full-time, but because of the small size of the School, is able to balance his administration duties and teaching duties.



Commendation: The Principal is commended for his unwavering support of the final 16 graduates. Working alongside the teaching staff, he has continued to foster an environment that is safe, supportive and positive for all students to belong and find success in.

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 Principal is supported by a Director of University Applications, who advises students in post-secondary applications and placements, and who also supports the Owner/Operator directly in school affairs. The School employs a grade 12 homeroom teacher whose duties include supporting students in their academics and daily school life. Finally, the Principal is supported by a local staff member who assists with the student information system and school financial duties.

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

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 Inspector reviewed a sample of student files and confirmed the presence of all required elements, including the English language entrance assessment and results, Permanent Student Record (PSR), updated student/parent consent forms and prior year report cards.

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

The Owner/Operator is aware that, according to the Ministry's [Permanent Student Record Instructions](#), the operating company must store the relevant documents listed in the policy for a minimum of 55 years. The Owner/Operator confirmed with the Inspector his plans to store the records at the company's head office in Nanning.



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

The Inspector reviewed teacher files and confirmed the presence of all necessary elements including verification of BC teacher certification, employment contracts, teacher evaluations, personal information consent forms, emergency contact information, and work/residence permits.

The Teaching Assistant (also the grade 12 Head Teacher) has an updated criminal record check on file. There are no locally certified teachers of exempted courses.

The Core Competencies and First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) were the focus of school-based professional development last year and are continuing this year. The staff plan to attend the Ministry's virtual professional development session on December 13 on the topic of First Peoples Principles of Learning and Indigenous Perspectives. Another area of focus for professional development this year is the newly implemented Student Reporting Policy.

Commendation:

The staff are to be commended for their long-term commitment to the BC program, providing much needed continuity and stability which are essential to providing a quality program.

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 met with the teaching Principal and teachers to discuss the implementation of BC's curriculum at the School, as well as their individual course plans, assessment schemes and reporting schedules. Full-year course plans incorporated all aspects of BC's curriculum, including Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies, Core Competencies and First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL), while most daily plans reflected the above.

Since the redesigned curriculum was first implemented, teachers have worked on including Core Competencies and FPPL within their lessons, both implicitly and explicitly. In

conversations with teachers, this can vary in difficulty depending on the subject area, and also lends itself more easily to particular units within a course. With the teachers' high-level of experience with BC's curriculum, implicit inclusion of the Core Competencies and FPPL are seamlessly woven throughout the student's educational day. The students themselves spoke about how learning and reflecting on their critical thinking/creative thinking/communication skills have aided them in becoming better students and people—a true testament to the work these teachers are doing inside (and outside) of the classroom.

The School has fully implemented all aspects of BC's curriculum, including the Indigenous-focused graduation requirement. English First Peoples 11 was offered during the previous school year and was completed by all students.

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 Principal is in charge of administering the English entrance assessment and makes the final decision on admission to the School. Due to the closure of the School in June 2024, the assessment has not been required for the past two years.

English language acquisition has always been a strong focus for the School, and staff are well-experienced in providing language supports to students. English language acquisition support includes but is not limited to:

- Guided and silent reading in all English classes
- Double English blocks, including for this final grade 12 class of students
- One-on-one support from the English-proficient grade 12 Head Teacher
- One-on-one English development feedback from BC teachers in all BC classes
- Social clubs designed specifically to improve English proficiency
- IELTS training for academic English
- Opportunities/activities during night studies to improve English

Appropriate and specific supports and interventions are determined for students who are academically at risk due to low language proficiency.



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 is not offering any of the following during the 2023/24 academic year:

- Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses
- Exempted courses taught by locally certified teachers
- Challenge courses

An appropriate equivalency policy is in place to accommodate Online Learning, but is not being used this year.

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 Inspector reviewed curriculum planning documents which included yearly course overviews, as well as detailed unit and lesson plans. All plans used a standard school template which had been designed around BC's curriculum. Year and unit plans included Big Ideas, Core Competencies, Curricular Competencies, content, First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL), teaching/learning strategies, and assessment methods.

The Inspector found planning documents to be thoughtfully prepared and focussed on student engagement. It was evident that students can demonstrate their learning in multiple ways, engage in critical and creative thinking and self-reflection, and practice multiple forms of communication.



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 School's instructional time allotment exceeds the provincial minimum of 850 hours. The School reports it provides just over five hours of instruction per day over 188 days per year with a total of 996.4 hours of instructional time each year.

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 Inspector found evidence of both formative and summative assessment practices in teacher plans, and this was confirmed in individual interviews with teachers. Students are able to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways, and students often have choice in assessments. The School's Assessment Policy describes fair and consistent practices and procedures for assessing student work. Due to the small size of the School, students consistently receive individual feedback to help them improve.

There are many opportunities for improvement available at the School for students who may be underperforming, including extra tutorial sessions during lunch and/or after school. Parents are communicated with in advance of formal reporting dates so students, parents and teachers can meet to create goals and targets.

The Principal and the teachers have a good rapport with the students, regularly monitoring student grades to ensure that classroom assessments reflect student achievement. Any assessment concerns are discussed as a team.

Proper security and invigilation procedures are in place for BC graduation assessments, including installation of the proper security software from the Ministry website on all computers, using physical dividers to separate students and ensuring students are checked for prohibited materials prior to writing exams. Two invigilators are assigned to supervise each BC assessment session.

Students at the School will take advantage of two of the provincial assessment writing windows, in the Fall and in the Spring. The Inspector encouraged the Principal and teachers to prepare students for the Grade 12 Literacy Assessment by offering some focused



instruction on the format of the assessment as well as some cross-curricular instruction on the types of questions that are typically included in the assessment, in order to help prepare students to successfully meet this graduation requirement.

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 meets the learning resources requirements. Classroom resources suitably meet requirements in order to effectively deliver BC's curriculum. Students are provided with a wide range of literature for daily silent reading and may borrow a variety of books from the library for personal reading. The reading program "Fiction Express" is available to give students access to relevant and current young adult fiction. The Principal signs off on all learning resources.

Students have access to three computer labs with a total of 100 computers. Students are encouraged to use laptops in their everyday class work and the internet connectivity at the School is suitable for students to connect and complete their work. Moodle continues to be used as a platform to connect students and teachers.

Staff have confirmed that they have what they need to educate the students effectively at the School.

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 meets the student progress report requirements as set out in the updated Student Reporting Policy, which was implemented as of July 1, 2023.

The updated K-12 policy includes the following:

- 5 reporting events a year
 - 4 Learning Updates (2 written; 2 of flexible format)
 - 1 Summary of Learning (written)
- Student self-reflection of the Core Competencies & student goal setting
- Provincial proficiency scale and descriptive feedback in K-9
- Letter grades & percentages with descriptive feedback in 10-12



- Graduation Status Update at 10-12

The Inspector confirmed with the Principal that the School had already been meeting the majority of the updated policy in previous years, with the exception of formalizing the student self-reflection of the Core Competencies & goal setting. As of the date of inspection, the teaching team had already met once to explore the approach that the student self reflection & goal setting could take, and were considering the best way to communicate this piece with parents.

Due to the small size of the School's final graduating class, the Principal described the many occasions where feedback to parents on student learning will occur, going above and beyond the requirements of the updated Student Reporting Policy. That being said, the Inspector encourages the Principal to formally outline how the School is meeting the updated policy and communicate it clearly with teachers and staff.

PowerSchool is used as the student management system for grade reporting, attendance and behavior tracking, and parents and students have ongoing digital access to this information.

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 Inspector verified that there is a detailed parent/student handbook that has been updated for the 2023/24 school year. The handbook is published in both English and Chinese.

The parent/student handbook includes the School's mission and goals, all of the required policies outlined in section 2.26 of the Annual Report, information about courses and graduation requirements, emergency procedures, and responsibilities of both staff and students. The handbook also includes a section on parental appeals.

The comprehensive parent/student handbook exceeds expectations in terms of the depth and breadth of its content.



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 Inspector verified that there is a detailed teacher handbook that has been updated for the 2023/24 school year.

The teacher handbook contains all of the relevant information applicable to teachers at the School, including the School's mission, teaching and professional conduct expectations, emergency procedures, appeals, student assessment and evaluation, teacher evaluation and course outline expectations.

The teacher handbook meets the 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 offer any 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 any courses via Remote Instruction.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspector wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative of Canadian International School Guangxi Gaojie for:

- maintaining a high level of teacher staffing to ensure that the final graduating class has sufficient credit options that will allow them a clear pathway to graduation and eligibility for post-secondary programs.
- the Owner/Operator's continued support of the BC program over the last decade.
- the OSR's active involvement with the BC program over the last decade, notably for his support in helping the School navigate the phasing out of the BC program and for serving as advisor and mentor to the BC Principal.
- the Principal's unwavering support of the final 16 graduates. Working alongside the teaching staff, he has continued to foster an environment that is safe, supportive and positive for all students to belong and find success in.
- the staff's long-term commitment to the BC program, providing much needed continuity and stability which are essential to providing a quality program.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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

