

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF FOREIGN NATIONALS SCHOOL—YIWU

YIWU, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 23—24, 2023

INTRODUCTION

On November 23 and 24, a certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf Foreign National School—Yiwu (MLFNS-Yiwu) in Yiwu, Zhejiang 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 202 students, in grades 1 to 12 (an increase of six since September when the School's Annual Report was submitted). The School shares a campus with the Chinese host school, which has an enrolment of approximately 1,000 students.

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 Chinese host school Principal, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal and all the BC teachers.

The Owner/Operator, China Maple Leaf Educational Systems (CMLES) is responsible for the BC program. The parent company, Maple Leaf Education Systems (MLES) is an international organization with over 46,000 students in all grades in several countries. Maple Leaf Schools were founded in Dalian in 1995 and opened the first BC certified offshore school there in 1997. The China division of MLES has elementary, secondary and foreign nationals schools throughout the country.

The BC program's philosophy, objectives and special features include an emphasis on the best features of both the western and Chinese educational models. This includes critical thinking, academic excellence, balancing innovation and tradition, and the strong belief that every child



possesses a strong desire to learn, to understand the world, and to share their acquired knowledge with others.

The Team would like to thank MLFNS-Yiwu 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
There were no requirements included in the previous report.			

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 School has a comprehensive business plan that includes a strong focus on student enrolment. The plan has already yielded positive results, with the school population now at 202, an increase of six students since September, and almost 70% increase since the 2019 pre-COVID-19 enrolment of 124. The source of students at the School remains the children of foreign nationals engaged in businesses in Yiwu.</p> <p>The School has developed a continuous improvement plan that focuses on three major areas: a) expanding professional development opportunities for teachers; b) providing equitable learning opportunities for students both academically and culturally; and c) increasing the cultural competency of staff. More specifically the School's major focus is strengthening the School's English language learning (ELL), expanding and standardizing assessment strategies across grades, and implementing grade-level numeracy assessments.</p> <p>As enrolment at the BC and the host schools grow, the city of Yiwu has committed to providing land for a new school when the combined enrolment reaches 1,600 (currently approximately 1,300 and growing).</p>		
<p>Commendation: The Principal is commended for leading the School's enrolment plan, and more broadly, for demonstrating a strong vision and leadership skills as a new school leader.</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, China Maple Leaf Educational Systems (CMLES) meets all the requirements in the Agreement.</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 School has written approval to operate as a private school in China.</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 building and safety compliance regulations for Zhejiang province and for the Ministry. The School's policies and procedures in this area have also been fully vetted by the Offshore School Representative (OSR). The School has a well developed policy on emergency procedures, including contingency plans in the event of an extended closure.</p> <p>There is a full-time nurse in the School and in the event of serious injuries, there are several hospitals nearby.</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.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School's Offshore School Representative (OSR) is the former Superintendent of China Maple Leaf Schools and former Executive Director of the Federation of Independent Schools (FISA). The OSR was present at the School throughout the inspection.

Commendation:

The OSR is commended for being onsite throughout the inspection, and for contributing his expertise and experience to the School.

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 as outlined in the Agreement. This is the Principal's first year in the role, but she has several years experience teaching in the China Maple Leaf Schools' system. Despite just being in the role for a few months, the Principal demonstrated an understanding of what the School needs, and has established a demonstrably positive and collaborative relationship with staff and students.

Commendation:

The Principal is to be commended for her thorough, clear and positive leadership style.

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 as per Section 2.08 of the Annual Report. There are two full-time bilingual office assistants responsible for all administrative tasks, including student and teacher files, operational links with the Chinese Headmaster, and accounting procedures. There is also an Education Coordinator responsible for the graduation program.



Commendation:

The School is to be commended for retaining a highly competent and responsive administrative support team.

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 Student Record requirements are being fully met at the School. The Team examined 24 randomly selected student files from grades 1 through 12 and all were complete and well organized. The student files included results of students' English language proficiency test.

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 requirements under Sections 2.10-2.18 of the Annual Report. All teacher files were examined. There are five teachers with valid Letters of Exemption and the Principal is supporting these teachers to complete the application requirements.

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 Team reviewed curriculum planning documents and interviewed teachers to confirm that BC's curriculum has been implemented from grade 1 to grade 12.

Course overviews, unit plans, and sample lesson plans demonstrated integration of self-assessment of Core Competencies, First Peoples Principles of Learning, as well as Big Ideas and curricular competencies. The anticipated need for differentiation to student learning needs was also evident in the planning documentation.



Commendation:

The Principal and staff are commended for organized documentation that accurately reflects BC's curriculum.

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 uses the admissions process to get an accurate understanding of students' English language proficiency prior to admissions. The School uses various tools, such as school-wide assessments and the Foundations Skills Assessment (FSA) to track growth over time for each student. Teachers are aware of the language needs within their classroom and work to differentiate their instruction to meet these individual needs. There is some English language support available outside of the classroom and plans are in place to increase this support as the population grows.

Commendation:

Teachers are commended for creating learning environments that adjust to the needs of the students, emphasizing the importance of English language acquisition throughout all subject areas.

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 meets the course credit requirements for the graduate learning years. All required courses are provided by the School in person with an anticipation that some elective courses will be offered as online courses in the second semester if the number of students interested in a specific course is low and there is not a teacher available to teach the course.

The School does not offer any Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses at this time.

Commendation:

The Principal and teachers are commended for prioritizing face-to-face learning for all of the required courses in the graduate learning years.



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 course planning documentation exceeds the requirements, and all documentation is collated, organized, and updated to ensure that new staff have a starting point in their teaching rather than having to create something new as they begin teaching at the School.

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 confirms that the School meets the requirements for instructional time with the instructional time far exceeding the minimum requirements.

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 classroom practice matches the curricular documentation in regards to assessment practices. Student and teacher interviews as well as classroom visits verified the ongoing use of formative and summative assessments. Students at all grade levels were able to communicate about their own self-assessment and goal setting and show evidence from both the beginning of the year and again at the end of the units already completed.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the integration of student self-assessment and goal setting into weekly and monthly routines.

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 classrooms are well supplied with learning resources including manipulatives for numeracy instruction. The classrooms have small English libraries, and they are used as part of daily reading. The classrooms contain relevant curricular resources both for hands-on activities and as paper-based learning resources. Teachers have access to an adequate amount of funds to purchase new resources that they need to fulfill the expectations of learning with BC's curriculum. The School is in the process of improving the resources in the science laboratory to make better use of the space as a learning area. The School also has a computer lab to support the use of online learning resources such as IXL.

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 learning progress regularly to parents. They have term reports, a summative report, and meetings with parents to review student progress. Parents have access to teachers via email if they have questions about their child's progress. Many parents are unfamiliar with evaluation practises beyond traditional grades and percentages. In the transition to the new reporting order, the School is working with parents to explain the similarities and differences in evaluation methods. Communications with parents regarding evaluation is a priority for the teachers.

Commendation:

The School is commended for embracing the new reporting order while also managing parent expectations around assessment and evaluation.

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 has been updated for the academic year. It contains policy for appeals and dispute resolution. Communication of the content of the handbook is clearly communicated in written form. There is active communication between the School and



parent community and the Principal works actively to improve communication and is exploring ways to include a group of parents in an advisory role.

Commendation:

The Principal is commended for setting up a structure that invites parents to meet her as a new administrator.

The Principal is commended for continuing to build a variety of avenues of communication between parents and the School.

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 is comprehensive and meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in Section 2.27 of the Annual Report. It brings clarity to teaching staff, highlighting the professional expectations of being a teacher at a foreign nationals school for MLES. The handbook contains an acknowledgement that the Province of British Columbia is not party to the contract of employment 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 is not presently offering any courses through Online Learning. It intends to offer some senior secondary elective courses during the second semester through the Ministry approved online service provider SD73 Business Company.



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.			
<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 is not offering any courses through Remote Instruction under the BC Offshore School Remote Instruction Policy.</p>			

CONCLUSION

Commendations

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

- setting up a structure that invites parents to meet the Principal as the School's new administrator.
- continuing to build a variety of avenues of communication between parents and the School.
- the Principal's leadership in developing the School's enrolment plan, and more broadly, for demonstrating a strong vision and leadership skills as a new school leader.
- the OSR's contribution and expertise in contributing to the inspection process.
- their integration of student self-assessment and goal setting into weekly and monthly routines.
- embracing the new reporting order while also managing parent expectations around assessment and evaluation.
- for prioritizing face-to-face learning for all of the required courses in the graduate learning years.

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