

# Certification Inspection Report

## BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

*at*

LANZHOU ORIENTAL INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

ANNING DISTRICT, LANZHOU, GANSU PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

DECEMBER 7-8, 2023

## INTRODUCTION

On December 7 and 8, a certification inspection was completed on Lanzhou Oriental International Secondary School (LOISS) in Anning District, Lanzhou, Gansu 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 Trish Smillie and David Loewen, who served as Chair for this inspection.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 24 students, in grades 10-11. The BC program is housed in Lanzhou Oriental Secondary School, which consists of primary, middle, and secondary buildings on one campus. The entire campus, which houses the BC program, enrolls just under 5,000 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 School's Owner/Operator, host school Principal, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal, BC teachers, and the BC program Administrative Assistant.

The Owner/Operator, Lanzhou Oriental Education Group, is responsible for the BC program. The Owner/Operator also operates the afore-mentioned primary, middle, and secondary schools.

The BC program's philosophy, objectives and special features include:

*Our mission is to nurture principled, responsible, and educated global citizens who participate in the world with respect, courage, and integrity. Our school's guiding virtues are respect,*



*cooperation, commitment, friendliness, kindness, consideration, honesty, and acceptance with a focus on understanding Big Ideas and developing the attributes and competencies that will allow students to strive for personal and academic excellence, we challenge our students to recognize the interconnections between their skills, their knowledge, their passions, their aspirations, and their development as educated global citizens. Students develop transferable skills that can be applied after they graduate, and they are able to positively engage with the world.*

The Team would like to thank Lanzhou Oriental International Secondary School for its hospitality, cooperation, and preparedness for the inspection visit.

<b>The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The School has one requirement from the previous inspection, to “acquire confirmation of ‘certified’ translations for each government approval document.” The School has fulfilled this requirement.</p> <p>The School has also taken to heart the suggestions of the previous inspection and made changes to improve the BC program.</p>			
<p>Commendation:</p> <p>The School is commended for giving due consideration to suggestions from the previous inspection and making changes to improve the BC program.</p>			

## BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

<b>The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care, confirming the sustainability of the program.</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Team confirmed the business plan as submitted in the Annual Report.</p> <p>The School has seen a significant decline in enrolment as a result of a combination of the rolling lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Lanzhou had lockdowns as recent as spring 2023) and a changeover in ownership during which time no student recruitment took place.</p>		



The School has plans to increase enrolment and has already realized that on a small scale with 15 students enrolled in grade 10 this year, and more projected for next year. The Owner/Operator is the Principal of the host school. He has been advocating to the local education bureau for a more favorable view of the BC program. The Owner/Operator is very involved in the running of the School and very invested in its success.

The BC program facility has capacity for 260 students and enrolled over 100 students pre-pandemic. The School's primary target for recruitment is from the middle school of its host school which houses approximately 600 students per grade. However, the School is also recruiting from other regional middle schools to grow enrolment. This includes the School's plans to offer English workshops once a month to prospective schools as a method of student recruitment. Finally, the School hosts an annual dinner for the principals of all feeder schools in the area, maintains a presence on social media and local print media, and attends regional student recruitment events.

This past year the local education bureau required high entrance marks for the BC program. The Owner/Operator has been able to negotiate a change in that restriction moving forward.

The School has been unable to initiate any school partnership activities in the past year due to the COVID-19 lockdowns. However, the School is in conversation with three school districts in BC and has plans to initiate activities in the near future.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for its aggressive plans to increase student enrolment and further ensure the sustainability of the BC program.

## 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 Team confirms that the Owner/Operator meets all the requirements as set forth in the Agreement. The Team met with the Owner/Operator and were impressed with his intimate knowledge of the BC program and his desire to see it succeed.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for the strong support of 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 Team verifies that the Owner/Operator has the following written approvals to operate the School:

- Gansu Provincial Education Department Official Document – January 4, 2013
- The Private School Running Permit of People’s Republic of China – June 15, 2018
- People-Run Non-Enterprise Unit Registration Certificate – July 14, 2006

**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 the documents provided by the School and confirms the School meets building inspection/safety, food preparation/cafeteria and fire safety codes/regulations.

The Team verifies the Owner/Operator has the following written documents confirming local regulatory compliance:

- Gansu Province Lanzhou Middle and Primary School Building Construct Evaluation Report – November 24, 2009
- Business License (Gansu Sanyu Catering Service Company Ltd.) – August 2016
- Lanzhou Jiatong University Oriental Middle School Fire Safety Floor Plan – December 1, 2010
- State Owned Land Use Certificate of the People’s Republic of China – September 27, 2006

The Team observed both fire and earthquake evacuation plans as well as school closure plans that have been vetted by the Offshore School Representative (OSR). The School conducts three fire drills and two earthquake drills per year.

The BC program is located on the sixth and seventh floor of the secondary building and consists of seven teaching classrooms, a music room, an art room, a chemistry lab, a physics lab (shared with the Chinese program), two computer labs, one library, one auditorium (shared with the Chinese program), one large sports field, six volleyball courts and six basketball courts, one ping pong room, administrative offices, a staff room, dormitory facilities, and a cafeteria. The facilities are more than adequate for the BC 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 Team confirms that the Offshore School Representative (OSR) is confirmed by the Province and meets all the requirements set out in Schedule B, Part II of the Agreement.

The Team noted that the OSR is uniquely qualified to fulfill this role with both previous offshore school principal and OSR experience and is very well acquainted with the BC program. The OSR is highly suited to supporting the School as it seeks to grow enrolment and become more sustainable.

The Team confirms the OSR is aware of their 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.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for hiring an OSR with strong offshore school experience and expertise.

**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 her fifth year at the School and in her fourth year as Principal. The Principal has experience as a teacher in Canada and as a teacher and vice-principal in offshore schools. The Team confirms the Principal is responsible for all duties as noted in Section 2.07 of the Annual Report.

**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 confirmed the Principal is supported by the BC Vice-Principal, International Director, and Office Manager, as well as directors of technology, human resources and



student management shared with the Chinese program. There are also several employees who assist in marketing, admissions, parent communications, and translation.

**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 observed that student files are kept in the BC Principal's office in secure, fireproof cabinets and contain all items as outlined in the Annual Report. The files are maintained by the Office Manager and an administrative assistant.

At this time there are no medical or legal alerts, however the Team was not confident the files are managed in such a way as to ensure said alerts would be appropriately documented.

The Team observed equivalency documents for the one student taking online courses were available in that student's file.

**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 Team confirms that all three teachers possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

There are six locally certified teachers who teach exempted and Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses. Each local teacher has a university degree that is acceptable by local authorities as evidence of teacher certification. Each of these teachers along with all other non-teaching employees working with students also has a copy of a current criminal record check (CRC) on file.

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

Each of the three BC program teachers is in at least their third year working at the School. As the School hopes to increase enrolment for next year, there are plans in place for teacher recruitment extending to over 30 institutions and organizations. The School provides a competitive compensation comparable to other BC offshore schools and provides free accommodation.



Teacher files contained all of the elements as noted in Section 2.11 of the Annual Report.

**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 confirmed that the School has fully implemented BC's curriculum. Unit planning documents examined demonstrated Big Ideas, curricular competencies, learning intentions, Core Competencies, and the First Peoples Principles of Learning. Descriptions of teaching methodology and assessment strategies aligned to curriculum implementation, including the competencies. This was determined by reviewing teacher planning materials and through interviews directly with staff.

The Core Competencies are integrated into instruction and assessment practices. Teachers are aware of the Core Competencies and understand this is an integral part of the BC program. The competencies are embedded in many of the learning activities experienced by students. Students complete competency self-reflections a minimum of twice per semester.

Staff also have access to professional learning from the Ministry of Education and Child Care to support alignment to BC's curriculum.

The staff indicated that the greatest challenge to implementing the curriculum is accessing resources due to some topics being deemed sensitive material by the local authorities.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for their focus and development of staff professional learning in a variety of areas to support instruction, specifically in the area of First Peoples Principles of Learning.

**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 Team confirms that the School has a formal English language assessment entry test with both written and spoken components. The Team has confirmed that the BC Principal directly manages the student admission processes, including making final decisions with respect to student assessment and admission.

The School requires that classroom teachers commit to language development support and assessment in their instruction. Staff provide English language acquisition in their classes. There was evidence of regular and ongoing instruction and assessment of learning focused on language acquisition strategies such as vocabulary development, oral and written language development. Students are assessed each semester on their language acquisition skills. Students appear to be engaged and motivated by instruction and assessment strategies to continue to improve their proficiency.

The Ministry's website offers resources for English language learners which will provide further guidance to expand support for English language acquisition. The Team notes that there should be continued focus on English language acquisition strategies in order to focus on continuous improvement in the area of literacy and numeracy.

Commendation:

The School is commended for maintaining a focus on implementing language acquisition to strengthen curricular competencies and Core Competencies.

**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 Team confirms that the School meets the course credit requirements as outlined in Section 2.21 of the Annual Report. An equivalency policy is in place. Students who take courses through the BC Online Learning provider (SD73 Business Company) complete an equivalency review and are awarded grades.

The School offers three approved Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses: Chinese Geography 10, Chinese History 10 and Chinese Politics 10.

**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 confirms that the School meets the requirements as per course overview/course planning expectations in the Agreement. Course plans document Big Ideas, curricular competencies and Core Competencies, First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) and various forms of assessment. The Principal reviews unit plans with teachers to ensure





alignment to BC's curriculum. Despite the challenges to access First Peoples resources, the staff are integrating FPPL materials into learning.

**Commendation:**

The staff is commended for their focus on the competencies. Assessment strategies show that students are able to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

**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 the School exceeds the required instructional time allotment. There are 185 instructional days in the 2023/24 school year with seven instructional hours per day for a total of 1295 instructional hours per 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:**

Examination of course outlines, and unit and lesson plans show evidence that the teachers use a wide variety of teaching strategies and assessments. Detailed descriptions of the teaching strategies and assessments are included in all documents.

Teachers collect and record assessment data on a regular basis and use the proficiency scale to review student work. Staff are expected to monitor each lesson and use consistent assessment to ensure students have achieved the desired learning intentions.

The School encourages the use of both formative and summative assessment. Guidelines for assessment should include the opportunity for students to retest and redo assignments and this should be outlined in the handbooks.

Provincial literacy and numeracy assessments are electronically administered. Instructions and passwords are retained and secured by the Principal until the exam date. Electronic assessments are not opened until the time the exams are to be written and are done so in a controlled environment, monitored by BC teachers. All locally written assessments are monitored by BC teachers to ensure exam rules are followed.



**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 Team confirms the learning resources meet requirements to effectively deliver the BC program, both in variety and quantity. It is evident in classrooms that there is a variety of resources used. The collection of English resources are reviewed by the librarian and BC teachers. Learning resources are also reviewed by the Principal.

Students use technology for learning with their own laptops. There are five computer workstations in the library and a printer. There are also two computer labs for students to access. Wi-Fi connectivity within the School is adequate. There are interactive whiteboards in each of the classrooms.

**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:**

Four formal student progress reports and two informal learning updates are issued each school year. Two written student progress reports with teachers' comments are issued each semester. Parent meetings are held after each reporting period to provide parents with any important information about student progress.

An example of a student progress report was provided. The K-12 Student Reporting Policy outlines the requirements for communicating student learning. The Policy requires concise descriptive feedback in clear and accessible language to ensure students and families understand where the student is at in their learning and provides areas for further growth. The Policy also requires student self-assessment of Core Competencies and student goal setting as part of the reporting process. Grades 10-12 require use of letter grades and percentages. For grades 10-12 a graduation status update and attendance record are required on the summary of learning at the end of the year. The School uses letter grades and percentages to describe student learning for the summative learning update.

The School does not align to the insufficient evidence requirements of the K-12 Student Reporting Policy. The graduation status update provides parents/guardians and students the information they need to ensure graduation requirements are met and will need to be added to the learning update.



The School has indicated that the Staff has met regarding the new reporting policy for teachers. It is evident that student self-assessment of Core Competencies and student goal setting is completed for each student.

As the School redevelops the summary of learning, it is advised to include:

- a summary of student learning in all learning areas studied during the school year using letter grades and percentages;
- summary descriptive feedback on areas of significant growth and opportunities for further development;
- information about student attendance;
- student-generated content including student self-reflection of the Core Competencies and student goal setting; and
- a graduation status update indicating student progress in relation to graduation program requirements.

The graduation status update must include:

- the graduation requirements as outlined in the Graduation Program Order;
- indication of a student's progress toward meeting those requirements;
- a student's completion of any provincial assessments; and
- what graduation program students are on.

Requirement:

The School is required to align learning updates to the K-12 Student Reporting Policy.

**Ministry update**

As of March 8, 2024, this requirement has been met to the satisfaction of the Ministry.

**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 confirmed that there is a detailed parent/student handbook that has been updated for the 2023/24 school year. It is written in both English and Chinese and contains the required elements pertaining to assessment, admissions, student conduct, supervision, and parent appeals.

The Team noted that the section on graduation requirements has not been updated to include information regarding the Indigenous-focused graduation credit. The Team also noted reference to both the 'new curriculum,' and the 'Ministry of Education.'



**Requirement:**

The School will need to update the parent/student handbook to include information regarding the Indigenous-focused graduation credit.

**Ministry update**

As of March 8, 2024, this requirement has been met to the satisfaction of the Ministry.

**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 teacher handbook which has been updated for the 2023/24 school year. The handbook contains criteria for teacher evaluations, a code of conduct, computer use contract, a discipline policy, assessment procedures and appeals, admissions information and various other pertinent policies.

The Team noted reference to both the 'new curriculum,' and the 'Ministry of Education.'

**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 offers three courses through Online Learning: Physical and Health Education 10, Career and Life Education, and Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10. There is an on-site facilitator for each of these courses who is a BC certified teacher. The BC Principal invigilates tests for the online courses. Students use their own computers to access the 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:**

At this time the School does not offer any courses via Remote Instruction.



## CONCLUSION

### Commendations

**The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff, and Offshore School Representative (OSR) of Lanzhou Oriental International Secondary School for:**

- giving due consideration to suggestions from the previous inspection and making changes to improve the BC program.
- its aggressive plans to increase student enrolment and further ensure the sustainability of the BC program.
- the strong support of the Owner/Operator.
- hiring an Offshore School Representative (OSR) with strong offshore school experience and expertise.
- their focus and development of staff professional learning in a variety of areas to support instruction, specifically in the area of First Peoples Principles of Learning.
- maintaining a focus on implementing language acquisition to strengthen curricular competencies and Core Competencies.
- the staff's focus on the competencies. Assessment strategies show that students are able to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

### Requirements

**In order to meet the requirements of the *BC Offshore School Program Certification Agreement*, the Team requires that by March 15, 2024, the Owner/Operator provide the Executive Director of the Independent Schools and International Education Branch, responsible for the BC Offshore School Program, with a plan and timeline for proposed implementation of the following items:**

- The School is required to align learning updates to the K-12 Student Reporting Policy.
  - As of March 8, 2024, this requirement has been met to the satisfaction of the Ministry.
- The School will need to update the parent/student handbook to include information regarding the Indigenous-focused graduation requirement.
  - As of March 8, 2024, this requirement has been met to the satisfaction of the Ministry.



## **SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of the Independent Schools and International Education Branch that, contingent on responding to the above requirements to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, the British Columbia education program offered at Lanzhou Oriental International Secondary School continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.**