

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

CANADA BRITISH COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – WENZHOU

WENZHOU, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 2 - 3, 2023

INTRODUCTION

On November 2 and 3, a certification inspection was completed on Canada British Columbia International School – Wenzhou (CBCIS-Wenzhou) in Wenzhou, 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 Henry Vanderveen and Terence Sullivan, who served as Chair for this inspection.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 138 students, in grades 10, 11 and 12. The entire school, which houses the BC program, enrolls 2,500 students in grades 10, 11 and 12. The BC program uses the third, fourth and fifth floors of the Experimental C Building. Students have access to other facilities including computer labs, science labs, athletic facilities including a track with bleachers for 500 students, two large gyms with basketball and badminton courts, outdoor courts for volleyball and basketball, garden pavilions and an auditorium.

During the visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the *BC Offshore School Program Pre-Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal, BC Vice-Principal, BC teachers, host school Principal and Vice-Principal, and the International Education Director, six students, the Director of the Wenzhou Education Bureau and the International Education Director from the Wenzhou Education Bureau.

The Owner/Operator, Sunny Bai, is responsible for the BC program. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Beijing Kezhi Times International Consulting Co. Ltd. which has five BC offshore



schools in China, a number of Nova Scotia offshore schools, some American program schools as well as Lowell High School in Vancouver.

According to the BC program’s philosophy, objectives and special features, the School is dedicated to preparing students for success in a rapidly changing world by providing a supportive learning environment that recognizes and respects individual differences, encourages students to challenge personal limits and promotes excellence. The School is also committed to an open communication process whereby students, parents, staff and administration can work collaboratively to enhance the quality of education provided. CBCIS – Wenzhou also strives to create a bridge where students can use their Chinese heritage as a foundation for living in an international world.

The Team would like to thank CBCIS – Wenzhou 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
Comment: Due to the change in ownership some records were not available to the Team.			
Commendation: The Team commends the administration for meeting the challenges presented by the change in ownership. Missing records included previous teacher evaluations. As a result the Principal did a classroom observation of all teachers on staff during this school year.			

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 School has established multi-year educational goals and added Canvas as an online educational platform, used for assignments and record keeping, which has facilitated communication between teachers and students. This platform helps when students miss a day of school, and teachers can communicate directly with students.</p> <p>The addition of the Canvas platform has allowed the School to identify students who are at risk. Teachers report out monthly regarding students who are struggling and print out interim reports. Two BC teachers also liaise with Chinese homeroom teachers who meet to review content, involve parents, and then put students on a contract for improvement. Support time is also provided during lunch from 12:45 - 1:20 PM each day to allow teachers to work with students who are struggling. Those meetings would also emanate from the data.</p> <p>The Owner/Operator has confirmed the sustainability of the program.</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:</p> <p>The new Owner/Operator has fulfilled the requirements set forth in the Pre-Certification Agreement and presently has ownership of four additional offshore schools in China. He has satisfied the ownership requirements outlined in Schedule A of the Agreement and has met the criteria outlined in section 5. The host school uses online channels to advertise and promote the School and it meets all requirements outlined in the Agreement.</p> <p>The Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR) and the Principal have been made aware of their obligations to report the dismissal, suspension or discipline of a BC certified teacher as outlined in section 17.00 of the Agreement.</p>		
<p>Commendation:</p> <p>The Team commends the new Owner/Operator for his support of the school administration and staff, and his communication with the host school during the ownership transition.</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.

Requirement Met Requirement Partially Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Included with the inspection documentation is a document approving the change in administrative license from the Department of Education of Zhejiang Province dated February 7, 2023. The BC program has permission to operate until December 31, 2027 and the enrolment of 60 students per year is valid until 2024.

The Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the School.

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 examined an annual fire safety inspection report dated December 22, 2022, an annual inspection report on building fire protection facilities dated December 20, 2022, and a catering services license dated September 21, 2021 and valid until September 21, 2026

The School has a process for emergency procedures outlined in the parent/student handbook which also outlines procedures for earthquakes. The School has an emergency committee in place which is responsible for implementing a plan for a temporary or permanent closure of the School. The Emergency Committee includes the Owner/Operator, the International Director, the Offshore School Representative (OSR), the BC Principal, and the BC Superintendent.

Temporary closure would involve relocation to other classroom spaces in the city. Other types of closure could involve the movement of staff and students to other CBC international schools, transfer to Lowell High School in Vancouver or a consideration to move to Remote Instruction.

Emergency plans have been vetted by the OSR for accuracy and functionality.

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 has appointed an Offshore School Representative (OSR) for CBCIS – Wenzhou and he has served as an OSR since April of 2015. The OSR’s appointment has been confirmed by the Province.

The OSR has been working in BC offshore schools since 1998 and lived in China for twelve years. He has extensive experience working in China and speaks Mandarin. He meets all the necessary requirements to be an OSR as outlined in the Agreement. He is also 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.

Commendation:

The Team commends the OSR actively supporting the inspection process.

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 seven years of teaching experience in public schools in Canada, ten years of administrative experience in schools in Canada and extensive administrative experience in schools in China beginning in 2009. He holds a Bachelor of Physical Education (BPE) degree from the University of Calgary, and a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) also from the University of Calgary, a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Victoria, and a PhD in Leadership and Curriculum from Capella University in Minnesota. He is serving his first year as principal at CBCIS – Wenzhou.

The Principal fully meets the requirements of Schedule B, Part III of the Agreement.

Commendation:

The Team commends the Principal and administrative staff for the well-organized documentation for the inspection.

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 has a 0.85 full-time principal, a 0.15 full-time equivalent (FTE) vice-principal, an FTE administrative assistant who is the BC Program Secretary and an FTE administrative assistant who is responsible for human resources matters. CBCIS - Wenzhou also has the support of a BC superintendent who supports administrators in each school location.

The School meets the administrative support requirements.

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 a random selection of student files from grades 10, 11 and 12. All records contained the requirements outlined in section 2.09 of the Annual Report.

Student and parent consent forms are complete for the 2023/24 school year and contain the updated name of the Ministry. Student records meet the student record requirement.

Commendation:

The Team commends the administration for the completeness and overall organization of the student records.

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 one teacher-applicant on staff. This teacher has applied for their Certificate of Qualification (COQ) and has a professional number from the Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB). All these applications have been made in a timely manner. The Offshore School Representative (OSR) and the School are supporting and assisting the teacher with these application processes.



This teacher was hired due to a direction of the Wenzhou Education Bureau and their formula for the required number of teacher-to-student ratio. The teacher is being used as a teacher assistant and always has a BC certified teacher with them in class as they deliver courses. They presently instruct ELSL 11 (English Language as a Spoken Language) and Computer Studies 10. Both these courses were planned by the Principal.

The School has two locally certified teachers on staff teaching Mandarin Chinese and music. Both teachers have degrees from local Chinese universities and approved criminal record checks. The translated documents were provided with the inspection documentation.

Commendation:

The Team commends the administrative staff for the accurate and well-organized teacher files.

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 all course planning documents and held interviews with teachers to discuss how the plans are implemented. The Team confirmed that overall, BC's curriculum has been implemented at the School, but not consistently in every course.

Most teachers were able to speak about how elements of BC's curriculum are incorporated into their lessons. During classroom visits the Team observed examples of appropriate integration of Core Competencies in teacher lessons.

Teachers use some inquiry-based and project-based learning techniques in their classroom, allowing students to discover new ideas and collaborate with others.

The Team confirms that overviews are in place for each course offered at the School and that BC's curriculum framework is reflected in those documents. Course planning materials include Big Ideas, Core and Curricular Competencies, English language learning strategies, First Peoples Principles of Learning, assessment strategies, and resources. However, some of the teachers are new to the BC program and are still developing strategies for implementing the required elements consistently in their daily lessons, particularly the Core Competencies and 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:

Teachers are intentional about assisting students with their English language acquisition in every course. A variety of strategies are used to enhance English proficiency, including highlighting key vocabulary and assigning oral presentations and academic papers.

The School administers an English language assessment to all prospective grade 10 students and the Principal oversees the assessment process and selection of students for the BC program.

The Team confirms that the School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition.

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 reviewed the School's course credit requirements and confirms that the School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions, and Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses) as outlined in section 2.21 of the Annual Report.

Exempted courses offered by locally certified teachers include Mandarin 10, 11 and 12 and Music 10, 11, and 12. Letters granting permission for the exemptions are on file.

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 reviewed all course planning documents, overviews, and sample assessment rubrics, and have determined that grade 10 to 12 course planning documents meet the requirements of BC's curriculum.

Through a review of documents as well as teacher and student interviews it was confirmed that a range of instructional strategies and assessment practices are being used at the School.

Students are provided the opportunity to demonstrate their learning using posters, presentations, academic reports and projects.

Commendation:

The Teachers are commended for welcoming the Team into their classrooms, having their curriculum documents available for review, and for sharing current lessons, assessment methods and student work.

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 confirmed that BC teachers provide 1050 hours of instruction annually, exceeding instructional time requirements.

Additional Chinese classes are taken daily outside of the English course schedule.

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:

Interviews with teachers included discussions about student assessment and the Team reviewed what was written in course planning documents about assessment procedures.

Many of the teachers use a variety of assessment practices including assessment for learning, assessment of learning and assessment as learning.

Students demonstrate their learning through a wide variety of ways including posters, presentations, academic reports, essays and projects. Students also are given the opportunity to complete peer assessments and self-assessments.



Monthly staff meetings include focused time for ensuring that teachers are using standard grading practices, employing differentiated assessment models and identifying “at risk” students.

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:

Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard with internet connection for instructional purposes.

Students can utilize laptops and iPads in some of their classes for research, individual and group projects and writing assignments. Students also have access to a computer lab.

The School has a library with an adequate number of English novels and reference materials and students have access to the library daily.

The School uses Canvas to support student learning and collaboration.

The Team confirms that the School meets the learning resources requirements according to the Agreement.

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 Team confirms that the K-12 Student Reporting Policy is a high priority for teacher professional development this year.

The School has two terms each semester and formal reports are issued each term. The issuance of reports is followed by parent meetings. Parents may also request meetings between reporting periods. Each student has a Chinese homeroom teacher who communicates regularly with parents and arranges meetings as needed.

The School will be using a system-wide report card template, which contains the required elements for compliance with the Ministry's Student Progress Report Order.

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 2023/24 school year. The handbook contains a dispute resolution process for both students and parents as well as an appeal process. Teachers receive information regarding the appeal process during teacher orientation. Parents are informed of the dispute resolution and appeal process through distribution of the bilingual handbook to all parents in September. The handbook also contains policies on assessment, admissions, student conduct, and the supervision of students.

The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the Annual Report.

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 has been updated for the 2023/24 school year. The handbook contains a statement of no liability regarding the employment relationship between the teacher and the province of British Columbia. The handbook contains a comprehensive policy on teacher evaluation. A separate policy on administrator evaluation was submitted with the inspection documentation.

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:

There are no students presently taking 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 is not currently offering courses via Remote Instruction.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative of Canada British Columbia International School – Wenzhou for:

- welcoming the Team into their classrooms, having their curriculum documents available for review, and for sharing current lessons, assessment methods and student work.
- meeting the challenges presented by the change in ownership.
- the support of the Owner/Operator, school administration and staff and their communication with the host school during the ownership transition.
- the valuable support provided by the OSR throughout the inspection process.
- the well-organized inspection documentation.
- the well-organized and complete student records.
- the accurate and well-organized teacher files.



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 CBCIS - Wenzhou be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.