



PRIORITY

"Every Child Can Learn... Every Child Must Learn"

Schools' Bulletin

ATTENTION: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMEN, PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

SUBJECT: CALENDAR OF SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

Dear Colleagues,

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 7 of the Education Regulations 1980, the Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information has specified the following school terms and periods within which school holidays may be allowed in the school year 2026/2027.

The school year shall run from the 1st of September of each year to the 31st of August of the following year.

The school year shall be divided into three terms, that is to say -

- (a) the first term, which shall begin on 1st September and end on 31st December;
- (b) the second term, which shall begin on 1st January and end on 30th April; and
- (c) The third term shall begin on 1st May and end on 31st August.

However, the first school day in each term shall be the first Monday of that term, except when that day is a public holiday, in which event the first school day shall be the day following, which is not a public holiday.

School Days per School Term guided by the minimum 190 Contact Days

1. The CHRISTMAS TERM of the school year will commence on **Monday, September 7, 2026**, and the last school day for the term is **Monday, December 21, 2026**. The Christmas Holidays will be from **Tuesday, December 22, 2026**, to **Sunday, January 3, 2027**.

School will officially resume from the Christmas Holidays on Monday, January 04, 2027.

2. The EASTER TERM of the school year will commence on **Monday, January 4, 2027** and end on **Friday, April 30, 2027**. Easter Holidays will begin on **Thursday, March 25, 2027**, and end on **Friday, April 2, 2027**.

School will officially resume from the Easter holidays on

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Chief Education Officer (Acting)

June 30, 2026

Monday, April 5, 2027.

3. The SUMMER TERM of the school year will commence on **Monday, May 3, 2027**, and end on **Friday, July 2, 2027**. Summer Holidays will begin **Monday, July 5, 2027**, and end **Sunday, September 5, 2027**.

The first school day of the 2027/2028 School Year begins Monday, September 6, 2027.

The following dates are suggested for Mid-Term Holidays:

CHRISTMAS TERM (National Heroes Day Mid-term) - October 19 - 21, 2026
School resumes Thursday, October 22, 2026

EASTER TERM (Ash Wednesday Mid-term) - February 10 - 12, 2027
School resumes Monday, February 15, 2027

SUMMER TERM (Labour Day Mid-term) – May 24 - 26, 2027
School resumes Thursday, May 27, 2027

BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL TEACHING AND LEARNING DAYS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

School Terms	Teaching Days Per Term
Christmas Term	73
Easter Term	75
Summer Term	42
Total Days for the School Year	190

Informal Co-Curriculum Days are included in the 190 Contact Days

Informal Day	# of Days
Carol Service	1
Jamaica Day	1
Sports Day(s)	1 or 2
Graduation Day	1
Heritage Day	1
Child's Day	1
Read Across Jamaica Day	1
Orientation Day(s)	1-3
Career Day	1
Teachers' Day	1
Internal Examination Days	24
Founders Day/School Spirit Day	1
Field Trip (optional)	1-3
Study Leave and External Examination Period for Grades 11-13	April –June

Given the plethora of co-curricular activities, efforts should be made to maximise and complement teaching and learning episodes with the use of technology (asynchronous learning, Google Classroom, etc.) and extended learning sessions and activities as needed.

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Chief Education Officer (Acting)

----- June 30, 2026 -----

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

National Heroes Day	Monday, October 19, 2026	Good Friday	Friday, March 26, 2027
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25, 2026	Easter Monday	Monday, March 29, 2027
Boxing Day	Saturday, December 26, 2026	Labour Day	Monday, May 24, 2027
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2027	Emancipation Day	Monday, August 2, 2027
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 10, 2027	Independence Day	Friday, August 6, 2027

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SKILLS, YOUTH AND INFORMATION'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

TEACHERS' IN-SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SUMMER):

Primary School Teachers	July 12 - 23, 2026
Secondary School Teachers	August 9 - August 20, 2026
CHRISTMAS TERM	Wednesday, October 21, 2026
EASTER TERM	Thursday, February 11, 2027
SUMMER TERM	Wednesday, May 26, 2027

Please note the following dates for the national and external examinations/assessments:

EXAMINATION	DATES
Jamaica Student Readiness Assessment (Age 4 Assessment)	June 1 – 11, 2027
Grade One Individual Learning Profile (GOILP)	August 24 – September 18, 2026 August 23 – September 17, 2027
Grade Two Diagnostic Test	May 17 – June 4, 2027
Grade Three Diagnostic Test	May 26 – 28, 2027
Primary Exit Profile (PEP) (Grade 6)	March 17, 2027 Language Arts Performance Task Test (Morning) Language Arts Curriculum-Based Test (Afternoon) March 18, 2027 Mathematics Performance Task Test (Morning) Mathematics Curriculum-Based Test (Afternoon)

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EXAMINATION	DATES
	April 21, 2027 Science Curriculum-Based Test (Morning) Social Studies Curriculum-Based Test (Afternoon) April 22, 2027 Ability Test (Morning)
Grade 5 Performance Tasks	June 2, 2027 Language Arts Performance Task Test (Morning) Science Performance Task Test (Afternoon) June 3, 2027 Mathematics Performance Task Test (Morning) Social Studies Performance Task Test (Afternoon)
Grade 4 Performance Tasks	June 16, 2027 Literacy (Morning) Language Arts Performance Task Test (Afternoon) June 17, 2027 Numeracy (Morning) Mathematics Performance Task Test (Afternoon)
Jamaica School Certificate Examination (JSCE)	July 6 – 9, 2027

CXC REGISTRATION & EXAMINATIONS – 2027

The dates are predicated on normal examination cycles for both January and May/June. These are, therefore, subject to change.

EXAMINATION	DATES
CSEC (January 2027)	Registration: September 1, 2026 to October 16, 2026 Examination Dates: January 04 – 28, 2027 No hardcopy question papers will be provided for this examination session. Exams will be e-assessed/hybrid e-assessed.
CSEC (June 2027)	Registration: October 01, 2026 to November 16, 2026 Draft Examination Dates: April 13, 2027, to June 08, 2027 CXC’s new deadline for registration is December 15.
CAPE (June 2027)	Registration: October 01, 2026 to November 16, 2026 Draft Examination Dates: April 13, 2027, to June 15, 2027 CXC’s new deadline for registration is December 15.
CVQ (June 2027)	Registration: September 01, 2026, to January 20, 2027 Draft Assessment Deadline: Coursework to be uploaded from May 1, 2027 to June 9, 2027 The Online Registration System (ORS) opens for submission of completed units in time for May 1, 2027

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CITY AND GUILDS WORKSHOPS AND EXAMINATION DATES 2026 – 2027

CATEGORY	EVENT	DATE
Deadline	Submit Subsidy Documents to the respective region offices for sign-off	Friday, 25 th September 2026
Workshop	Math Skills Online Workshop [Zoom]	Tuesday, 6 th October 2026
Workshop	English Skills Online Workshop [Zoom]	Wednesday, 7 th October 2026
Workshop	Customer Service Workshop	Thursday, 8 th October 2026
Workshop	Skills Proficiency Awards Online Workshop [Live Sessions]	Tuesday, 14 th , Wednesday, 15 th and Thursday, 16 th 2026
Deadline	Submit MoESYI Signed Subsidy Documents to the City & Guilds Rep. Office	Friday, October 23rd 2026
Deadline	Period to register for Math, English, and Customer Service for June 2026 Exams	Monday, November 9th - Friday, December 18th 2026
Deadline	Deadline for submission of Skills Proficiency Awards to the Rep. Office	Friday, 18th December 2026
Deadline	Deadline for Completion of Math & English Amendments	Friday, 15 th January 2027
Exam Date	Practice Exam Day	Thursday, 11 th March 2027
Exam Date	Examination Date for Speaking & Listening	Monday, 12th April 2027- Friday, 16th April 2027
Deadline	Deadline for Submission of Speaking & Listening Grades	Friday, 7 th May 2027
Exam Date	City & Guilds Diagnostic Test Days	Monday, 2nd June and Tuesday, 3rd June 2027
Deadline	Deadline for submission of Diagnostic Exam grades to the Regional Office	Friday, 9 th July 2027
Exam Date	English Skills at 9 am	Wednesday, 9th June 2027
Exam Date	Customer Service at 9 am	Thursday, 10th June 2027
Exam Date	Math Skills at 9 am	Friday, 11th June 2027
Timeline	Assessment of Skills Proficiency Awards (Verification Process)	Tuesday, 25 th May 2027- Friday, 11 th June 2027

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NCTVET REGISTRATION, ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION TIMELINES:

Assessment Period	Application Deadline	Verification of Candidacy	Assessment Dates	Release of Assessment Results	Issuance of Certificates
November 2026	June 12, 2026	Verification of candidacy must be done by the institution within 5 days of receipt	November 16 - December 11, 2026.	40 days after the last sitting of the assessment	1 month after the release of the assessment results
June 2027	November 30, 2026		June 2027	65 days after the last sitting of the assessment	2 months after the release of the assessment results

June 2026: Assessment Begins - June 15, 2026

Assessment Ends – July 16, 2026

Attention is drawn to **Regulation 7 (3) of the Education Regulations 1980**, which makes it obligatory for every Educational Institution to meet for not less than One Hundred and ninety (190) days in every school year. Chairpersons of School Boards are asked to inform the Ministry of any variations in the dates on which their schools will close for each term, with justification and plans to recover the lost teaching time.

Please note that schools are expected to remain open for all examinations, except in cases where space is a challenge. In these cases, the Regional Education Officers should be informed. Plans must be made to recover the teaching time for the students affected by this decision.

***Please be reminded that the dates are subject to change due to any extenuating circumstances.**

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