



MEDIA RELEASE

4 September 2026

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

2026 Examination Results Show Gains Across SEA, CAPE and CSEC

The Ministry of Education is pleased to announce encouraging gains in student performance across the 2026 Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA), Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE).

CAPE recorded its strongest overall performance across the 2024–2026 period, SEA mean scores improved in all three assessed areas, and CSEC results remained broadly comparable to 2025 while exceeding 2024 performance on key measures.

CAPE Records Strongest Performance in Three Years

In 2026, 96.30% of written CAPE subject entries attained acceptable Grades I–V, compared with 95.72% in 2025 and 95.47% in 2024.

The proportion attaining the higher Grades I–III also increased to 75.64% in 2026, compared with 72.72% in 2025 and 72.82% in 2024.

CSEC Shows Progress in Key Areas

Among candidates attempting five or more subjects, 60.68% attained five or more passes in 2026, compared with 58.54% in 2024. Additionally, 49.21% attained five or more subjects including Mathematics and English A, compared with 46.50% in 2024.

Although both indicators were below the 2025 peak, pass rates in 2026 were higher than in 2024 in 22 of 33 comparable subjects nationally and in 23 of 33 subjects among public-school candidates.

High achievement also increased; the number of candidates attaining Grade I passes in at least eight CSEC subjects rose from 457 in 2025 to 528 in 2026 – and increase of 15.5%. These candidates came from 43 schools. The number attaining Grade I passes in at least 10 subjects also increased from 18 to 21.

SEA Results Reflect Broader Improvement

A total of 17,509 students wrote the 2026 SEA, with national mean scores improving in all three assessed areas. Mathematics increased from 52.10 in 2025 to 53.84 in 2026; English Language Arts increased from 66.70 to 68.66; and English Language Arts Writing increased from 11.25 out of 20 to 11.57.

The proportion of students scoring above the 50% benchmark increased from 66.18% in 2025 to 70.73% in 2026, representing 557 additional students. At the same time, the number not yet above the benchmark declined by 918, from 6,043 to 5,125.

Among the corrected total of 187 priority primary schools, 140 improved the proportion of students scoring above 50%. The number of schools in which at least half of students scored above 50% increased from 72 in 2025 to 116 in 2026.

Following requested reviews, the number of students scoring above 90% increased from the preliminary figure of 670 to 683, or 3.90%. This was 262 more than the 421 students, or 2.36%, who scored above 90% in 2025. Nine students shared the **top three SEA positions** — six boys and three girls.

The Ministry will recognise the **top 300 performers** in both **S.E.A** and **CSEC** this year and extends congratulations to all candidates, teachers, parents, guardians and school personnel whose support contributed to their success.

National Absenteeism Rates Remain Below Regional Figure

The Ministry clarifies that the regional examination absenteeism figure of more than 30% referenced by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) does not represent Trinidad and Tobago's national CSEC or CAPE position.

The Ministry distinguishes between a fully absent candidate, who registered but wrote no subject or unit, and subject-entry absenteeism, which measures absent entries as a proportion of registered entries.

In 2026, Trinidad and Tobago's national rates were well below 30% on both measures: 13.86% and 9.50% at CSEC, and 2.90% and 3.17% at CAPE, respectively.

CSEC absenteeism declined for the second consecutive year. The full-candidate absence rate fell from 17.84% in 2024 to 13.86% in 2026, while subject-entry absenteeism declined from 11.79% to 9.50%. This represented 1,026 fewer fully absent candidates and 2,935 fewer absent subject entries over the period.

At CAPE, absenteeism remained low. The full-candidate absence rate was 2.90% in 2026, while subject-entry absenteeism was 3.17%, both remaining below 2024 levels.

The public-school CSEC position was stronger, with 3.19% of candidates writing no subject and 4.83% of subject entries absent in 2026. Higher rates were concentrated in the combined private/non-public category, at 29.13% and 29.78%, respectively, although both declined from 2025 and remained below 2024 levels. This category includes independently entered private candidates and other non-public institutions and does not refer to every privately managed school.

Dr. the Honourable Michael R. Dowlath, Minister of Education, indicated that “The regional figure above 30% does not describe Trinidad and Tobago's national CSEC or CAPE position. CSEC absenteeism has declined for two consecutive years and CAPE absenteeism remains low. We must sustain that progress while focusing attention on the candidate groups in which absence remains concentrated.”

During the 2026/2027 academic year, the Ministry will continue targeted interventions to strengthen performance in priority learning areas and address absenteeism where it remains concentrated.

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