

Jamaica Teachers' Association

97B Church Street

Kingston

REPORT TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the activities and achievements of the Secondary Committee of the Jamaica Teachers' Association during the reporting period. The Committee remains committed to advancing the quality of secondary education while responding to the emerging needs of students and educators across Jamaica through strategic interventions, partnerships, and innovative programmes.

Meetings and Planning Activities

During the period under review, the Committee convened:

- Four (4) scheduled committee meetings, which facilitated discussions on strategic priorities and ongoing initiatives.
- Two (6) planning meetings held via Zoom, which focused on the coordination and execution of key programmes, particularly those aimed at academic recovery and the staging of the National Skills Expo.

Programme Implementation

Hurricane Academic Recovery Intervention Programme

A major highlight of the Committee's work was the successful execution of the Hurricane Academic Recovery Intervention Programme, designed to support students impacted by disruptions caused by Hurricane Melissa.

Key achievements include:

- One (1) face-to-face session held in Belmont, Westmoreland, which catered to approximately 100 students.
- Two (2) online sessions, which collectively engaged approximately 400 students across various regions.
- A scheduled visit to Maggotty High School was postponed due to inclement weather conditions and subsequently rescheduled, reaffirming the Committee's commitment to reaching affected students.

This initiative contributed significantly to bridging learning gaps, reinforcing core subject areas, and providing targeted examination preparation support for students at the secondary level.

National Skills Expo 2026

A major milestone during the reporting period was the successful staging of the **National Skills Expo** on **June 4, 2026**.

The event attracted participation from **over 300 students** from secondary institutions across the island and provided an excellent platform for students to showcase their talents, skills, creativity, and innovation.

The Committee partnered with several key stakeholders, including:

- **HEART/NSTA Trust**, which mounted engaging exhibitions highlighting technical and vocational education and training opportunities.
 - Ebony Park Campus
 - Newport Campus
 - Derrick Rochester Campus
- **St. John Bosco Boys' Home**
- **Vocational Training Development Institute (VTDI)**
- **CrissTeek Gold Limited**

Students and exhibitors showcased skills and opportunities in several areas, including:

- Agriculture
- Cosmetology
- Construction Technology
- Food and Nutrition
- Health and Wellness
- New and Emerging Careers in Technology
- Motor Vehicle Repairs
- Robotics

The Expo successfully promoted career awareness, skills development, entrepreneurship, and pathways to further education and training. Participants were exposed to a wide range of opportunities that align with Jamaica's workforce and national development needs.

Collaboration and Strategic Engagement

The Secondary Committee continued its active collaboration by participating in the planning and execution of the Education Conference programme. This partnership strengthened coordination efforts and ensured that conference programming reflected current educational priorities and challenges facing the secondary education sector.

Recommendations

1. Improve the National Skills Expo by:

- Introduce an innovation and entrepreneurship zone

Forge stronger collaborations with the Ministry of Education, HEART/NSTA Trust, tertiary institutions, industry partners, and community organisations to broaden educational and career opportunities for students.

Seek sponsorships to reduce programme costs and increase the scale of committee initiatives.

- Introduce Competitions

Organise competitions in areas such as robotics, coding, entrepreneurship, culinary arts, agriculture, construction technology, cosmetology, and innovation.

Offer trophies, scholarships, equipment, and sponsorship prizes to motivate participation.

2. Complete and Utilise the TREND Evaluation

Complete the assessment of the relevance and effectiveness of TREND in secondary schools.

Use the findings to make evidence-based recommendations for improving the programme and advocating for policy changes where necessary.

Conclusion

The Secondary Committee of the Jamaica Teachers' Association remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting students, educators, and the advancement of secondary education across Jamaica. Through strategic planning, collaborative partnerships, innovative programmes, and responsive interventions, the Committee continues to embody the JTA's mission to "Unite and Serve."

The Committee expresses sincere appreciation to all members, partners, institutions, and stakeholders whose support contributed to the successful execution of its initiatives during the reporting period. "Long live the J.T.A."

Prepared by:

Mrs. Lorraine Reid-Henningham

Chair, Secondary Committee