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Good Time and Earned Time Policies for State Prison Inmates (as established by law)

November 2011

This chart highlights sentence credit policies listed in state statutes that are applicable to inmates in state prisons. Earned time is defined as a credit against an inmate's sentence or period of incarceration that he or she earns for participation in or completion of productive activities. Earned time is distinguished from, and can be offered in addition to, "good time" credits which are given to offenders for following prison rules and required participation in activities.

			EARNED TIME								
STATES	GOOD TIME	Education	Vocation	Treatment	Work	Disaster / Conservation	Meritorious	Other	NOTES		
Alabama §14-9-40 et seq.; §14-9-3	20, 40 or 75 days per 30 days served for prisoner behavior, discipline, work practices and job responsibility.							30 days per 12 months for blood donation; on top of other time earned.	Time awarded based on inmate classification		
Alaska §33.20.010	1/3 off prison term for good conduct.										
Arizona §41-1604.06 to .07	1 day per 6 served for education, training, treatment programs and any assignments of confidence and trust.								DOC to create and base credit on classification, including ineligible classes		
Arkansas §12-29-201 et seq.	30 days per month served for work practices, job		90 days per completion of vocational	90 days per completion of drug or alcohol					Earned time not to exceed 270 days,		

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	responsibilities, and rehabilitative activities.		certification	treatment					earned on top of good time. Board of Corrections to create inmate classifications	
California Penal Code §2933 et seq. and §2935	Six months per six months served or proportionally less time awarded for less time served, in line with regulations set by the secretary of corrections.	See other	See other	See other		2 days per 1 day working for working at a conservation camp or for working as an inmate firefighter or after completion of training for those programs.	Up to 12 months for heroic acts in life threatening situations or providing exceptional assistance in maintaining the safety and security of a prison.	1 – 6 weeks per 12-month period for completion of rehabilitative programming as determined by DOC but may include academic programs, vocational programs, vocational training, and core programs such as anger management, social life skills, and substance abuse programs. Awarded on top of good time.	Certain inmates are only eligible to earn 15% of good time.	
Colorado §17-22.5-405 et	10 or 12 days per month served based on DOC					1 day per 1 day of working at a disaster site, on		An additional maximum 30 days or maximum 60		
seq.	standards of consistent progress with work, training, group living (personal hygiene, cooperation, double bunking, and social adjustment), counseling and self-					top of good time		days for certain inmates without penal code infractions within specified timeframes, has been program compliant, and has not been previously		

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	help groups, progress towards goals identified in diagnostic program, has not harassed victim, any parole release rules, and progress in literacy corrections program or correctional education program							convicted of certain felonies; at the discretion of the parole board.			
Connecticut									No Credit. Supreme Court ruled CGS § 18-100d, enacted in 1993, prohibits the granting of any time for inmates whose conviction is on or after October 1, 1994.		
Delaware 11 Del.C. §4381	2 days per month for first year served and 3 days per month for subsequent years served for no violations and work toward rehabilitation	Up to 5 days per month for participation in education			Up to 5 days per month for participation in work			Up to 5 days per month for participation in rehabilitation or program approved by DOC	Good time not to exceed 36 days per year and total		

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Florida §944.275 and §944.801	10 days per month served for participating in training, working diligently, using time constructively, or other positive activities	6 days per 150 hours of participation in correctional education program; 60 days for completion of GED	60 days for completion of vocational certificate				Up to 60 days for service in outstanding deed (saving a life or assisting with recapture of escapee)		education / vocation is a onetime credit; Inmate Education Guidelines §944.801
Georgia §42-5- 101		1 day per 1 day of participation in academic education	1 day per 1 day of participation in vocational education						Instructs the parole board to consider credits when making a release decision.
Hawaii N/A									No credit.
Idaho §20- 101D							Up to 15 days per month for an extraordinary act of heroism at the risk of his own life or for outstanding service to the state of Idaho which results in the saving of lives, prevention of destruction of major property loss during a riot, or the prevention of an escape from a correctional facility.		

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Illinois 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3	1 day per 1 day or 4.5 days per month served for good conduct	Good time multiplied by 1.5 for participation in educational program; 60 days for completion of GED on top of other good and earned time		Good time multiplied by 1.5 for participation in full-time substance abuse program	Good time multiplied by 1.5 for working in correctional industry assignment		Up to 90 or 180 days for service as determined by DOC		
Indiana §35- 50-6-3 et seq.	1 day per 1 day served, 1 day per 2 days served or 1 day per 6 days served	Time earned per completion of literacy skills program (6 months), GED (6 months), High School Diploma (1 year), associate's degree (1 year), or bachelors degree (2 years) on top of other good and earned time.	Up to 6 months for completion of one or more career or technical education program on top of good time.	Up to 6 months for completion of one or more substance abuse or basic life skills program on top of good time.				Up to 6 months for completion of one or more reformative program on top of good time	Total credit not to exceed 4 years or 1/3 of sentence, whichever is lesser.
Iowa §903A.2	15/85 of a day for good conduct	12/10 of a day per 1 day of participation in an educational program.		12/10 of a day per 1 day of participation in a treatment program	12/10 of a day per 1 day working in the institution, lowa state industries or an employment program TBD by DOC		Up to 365 days for exemplary acts		Inmates are either eligible for 15/85 good time or 12/10 earned time dependant on type of sentence, not both.
Kansas §21- 4722	15% or 20% of prison term	60 days for completion of a GED on top of good time.	60 days for completion of a technical or vocational training	60 days for completion of a substance abuse program on top of good time.				60 days for completion of any other program which has been shown to reduce	

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			program on top of good time.					offender's risk after release on top of good time.	
Kentucky §197.045 and §197.047	10 days per month served based on conduct	90 days for completion of GED, high school diploma, two or four year college degree, or civics education program on top of good time.	90 days for completion of two or four year applied science or technical education diploma on top of good time.	90 days for completion of a minimum 6 month drug treatment program on top of good time.			7 days per month for outstanding performance related to institutional operations and programs; additional 7 days per month during an emergency on top of good and earned time.	1/5 day per 8 hours of participation in state or local government entities work projects or work related to maintenance and operation of a correctional facility.	
Louisiana RS 15: §571.3 and RS 15: §833.1	30 days per 30 days or 3 days per 17 days in custody for good behavior and performance of work or self-improvement activities.				35 days per 30 days working in lieu of incentive wages.	30 days per 30 days working on disaster remediation.		35 days per 30 days for performance in self-improvement activities in lieu of incentive wages.	Inmates earn either good time or earned time, not both.
Maine 17-A MRSA §1253	Up to 4 days per month served based on conduct.							Up to 3 days per month for complying with transition plan for work, education or rehab; additional 2 days per month for community-based work, education or rehab, on top of good time.	
Maryland Correctional Services §3-	5 or 10 days per month served	5 days per month of participation in educational or	5 days per month of participation in		5 days per month for satisfactory			10 days per month of participation in special selected	Total credits not to exceed 20 days per

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701 et seq.		other training courses on top of good time.	vocational courses on top of good time.		performance in assigned tasks on top of good time.			work projects or other special programs on top of good time.	month.
Massachusetts 127:§129C and §129D		2.5 days per month of participation in a GED educational course or other educational course	2.5 days per month of participation in a vocational program		2.5 days per month of working at a state hospital or state school; employed on work release or in prison industry.			2.5 days per month for any other program deemed valuable to an inmate's rehabilitation. Additional 2.5 days while confined in a prison camp on top of other earned time.	Total credits not to exceed 7.5 days per month
Michigan §800.34									No credit. Disciplinary time: time added to prison term for misconduct to be considered by the parole board for release.
Minnesota §244.05									No credit. Time added to prison term for misconduct or non-participation in rehabilitative programming.
Mississippi §47-5-138, §47- 5-138.1, and §47-5-142	4.5 days per 30 days served for compliance with good conduct and performance	30 days per month of participation in educational or instructional programs on top			30 days per month for satisfactory participation in work			30 days per month of participation in special incentive programs on top of good time;	

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	requirements.	of good time; additional time of up to 10 days for every 30 days participation for completion			projects on top of good time; additional time of up to 10 days for every 30 days participation for completion			additional time of up to 10 days for every 30 days participation for participation.		
Missouri §558.041 and 14 CSR 10- 5.010	1 – 2 months per year for acceptable behavior and appropriate program involvement.								Statute Instructs Department to create a policy.	
Montana N/A	involvement.								No credit.	
Nebraska §83- 1,107	Six months per year, credit may be forfeited or withheld for misconduct. 3 days per month for no class I or II violations nor more than 3 class III violations within preceding 12 months.									
Nevada §209.4465, §209.448, and §209.449	20 days per month served with no serious infractions and performing duties assigned.	120 days for 1 st	-	60 days for completion of alcohol or drug treatment program by a licensed counselor on top of all other time.	10 days per month for "laboring" on top of good time.	10 days per month for participating in a conservation camp on top of good time.	Up to 90 days per year for exceptional meritorious service on top of all other time.	10 days per month for participating in a restitution center, reentry program, work release or any other program outside prison.		

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		and up to 90 days for additional degrees on top of all other time.	days for meritorious or exceptional achievement in completing the program.						
New Hampshire §651:2(II-e) and §651-A:22								Up to 12.5 days per month served (150 days per year) for good conduct and participation in programs designed to reduce recidivism.	150 days "disciplinary time" added for each year of term; days reduced for good conduct at the same rate
New Jersey §30:4-92; §30:4-92a and §30:4-140	7 days per month up to 16 days per month served, time awarded increases with number of years served for orderly conduct.	Commissioner may award time for achievements in education on top of other time.	Commissioner may award time for achievements in workforce training on top of other time.		3 days per month for the first year employed and 5 days per month for subsequent years working in honor camps, farms or details.				
New Mexico §33-2-34	Up to 4, 8 or 30 days per month served dependant on crime and quality of participation.	3 months for a GED, 4 months for an associates degree, 5 months for a bachelor's degree or graduate qualification completion, on top of good time.	1 month for completion of a vocational program, on top of good time.	1 month for completion of a substance abuse or mental health program on top of good time.			For a heroic act of saving life or property or extraordinary conduct that demonstrates commitment to rehabilitation. Amount earned at discretion of DOC.		Earned time awarded may not exceed 1 year in a 12-month period.
New York Correction §803		Total of 1/7, 1/6, or 1/3 of the	Total of 1/7, 1/6, or 1/3 of	Total of 1/7, 1/6, or 1/3 of the				6 months for participation in	6 month credit will be applied

				E	ARNED TIME				
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- §805		sentence for completion of a GED .	the sentence for vocational trade certificate following at least six month of vocational programming or at least 400 hours of community work crew service.	minimum sentence for alcohol and substance abuse treatment certificate.				work and treatment and completion of "significant programmatic accomplishment" (defined in statute).	to the end of a prison term, on top of other credit earned.
North Carolina §148-13, §15A- 1340.13(d), §15A-1340.18 and P&P Ch. B, sec. 0100		Up to 30 days for each educational degree achieved.	5, 15 or 30 days credit for completion of apprentice program, dependant on program.		2 – 6 days per month for working full- time. Additional one day credit per 8 hours overtime worked. DOC can also award time for working in inclement weather.		Up to 30 days for each exemplary act.	2 – 6 days per month for full-time participation in programs that assist in productive reentry. 20% the minimum sentence for participation in treatment, education and rehabilitative programs – eligibility determined by the court.	Monthly credit cannot exceed 6 days per month. Completion and meritorious credit on top of other credit. Statute Instructs DOC to create a policy .
North Dakota §12-54.1					weuther.		Lump sum or monthly rate equal to 2 days per month for outstanding performance or heroic acts, on top of other earned time.	5 days per month based on participation in court ordered or staff recommended treatment and education programs and good work performance.	
Ohio §2967.193		1 or 5 days per month of participation in an	1 or 5 days per month of participation in	1 or 5 days per month of participation in	1 or 5 days per month working in			1 or 5 days per month of participation in a	May earn time for up to 2 programs and

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		education program	vocational training	substance abuse treatment or sex offender treatment	prison industries			constructive program TBD by DOC with specific standards for performance	total credit cannot exceed 8% of total days of sentence.
Oklahoma §57-138 and §57-138.1	22, 33, 44, 45, or 60 days per month for rehabilitation, obtaining job skills, and educational enhancement, participation in and completion of alcohol/chemical abuse programs, incentives for inmates to accept work assignments and jobs, work attendance and productivity, conduct record, participation in programs, cooperative general behavior, and appearance.	10 – 30 days for educational accomplishments on top of good time; 90 days for completion of GED on top of good time.	80 days for vocational certificate on top of good time.	70 days for completion of a minimum 4 month alcohol/chemical abuse treatment program on top of good time.			Up to 100 days for meritorious act within the public interest in enhancing public safety on top of all other time.	10 – 30 days for programs not specified on top of good time.	
Oregon §421.121	Total of 20% or 30% of prison term on crime for appropriate institutional behavior	60 days for GED, high school diploma, post- secondary certificate or degree	60 days for journey level certification from a registered apprenticeship program						Varying effective dates: Ch. 660, Laws 2009 and Ch. 2, Laws 2010
Pennsylvania 61 Pa CSA §4501 - §4512								1/4 or 1/6 the minimum sentence for participation in and completion of evidence-based	Eligibility determined by sentencing court.

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								program plan as determined by risk assessments	
Rhode Island §42-56-24	Up to 10 days per month for good behavior.			5 days per month of participation; 30 days for completion	2 days per month working in prison industries on top of good time.		3 days per month for performing heroic acts or for extraordinary and useful ideas and which have been implemented for the benefit of the state resulting in substantial savings and/or a higher degree of efficiency or performance; on top of good time but NOT in addition to rehabilitation or other earned time.		
South Carolina §24-13-210 to 235	3 or 20 days per month served for a good conduct record.	Up to 1 day for every 2 or 6 days per month for actively enrolled and participating in academic training; granted upon successful completion on top of good time.	granted upon						
		or good time.	successful completion on						

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			top of good time.						
South Dakota §24-5-1	4 months for the first year served and 6 months per year for subsequent years.		unc						
Tennessee §41-21-236	Up to 8 days per month served for good institutional behavior.	Up to 8 days per month of participation on top of good time. 60 days for completion of GED, high school diploma, 2 or 4- year college degree or applied sciences program on top of all other credit.	Up to 8 days per month of participation on top of good time; 60 days for completion of a vocational educational diploma		Up to 8 days per month working on top of good time				Inmates can earn up to 16 days per month and one educational completion credit.
Texas Gov. Code §498.002 - §498.003		10 to 30 days per month of participation in an educational program; literacy program only if inmate is a tutor	10 to 30 days per month of participation in a vocational program	10 to 30 days per month of participation in a treatment program	10 to 30 days per month working in an industrial or other work program	10 to 30 days per month working in agricultural program			
Utah N/A		or pupil							No credit.
Vermont 28 VSA §811 to §813					30 days per month for working in a work camp.				
Virginia §53.1-191, §53.1-202 et seq.							Time awarded is agency discretion for assistance in	4.5 days per 30 served for participation and cooperation in	

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							preventing an escape; blood donation to another prisoner; extraordinary service; suffers bodily injury	programs based on a risk assessment, related to successful reentry	
Washington §9.94A.729	Up to 1/3 of total sentence for good behavior and performance.							Up to 50% of sentence for good behavior and performance in reentry program plan.*	Good time cannot exceed 1/3 of total sentence. *50% does not apply to inmates convicted after July 1, 2010.
West Virginia §28-5-27	1 day for 1 day served as determined by DOC rules						Time can be awarded at agency discretion, with approval of governor for exceptional work or service.		
Wisconsin §302.113(2) and §302.11	1 day for 2 days served for abiding by regulations and performing required duties.								10 days – 40 days added to mandatory release date for violating rules or not performing required duties.
Wyoming §7- 13-420 and P&P #1.500	Up to 10 or 15 days per month based on inmate performance, conduct and								Statute Instructs the governor, parole board and DOC to

STATES	GOOD TIME	EARNED TIME							
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	behavior.								create policy

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Statutes and bills may be edited or summarized; full text can be retrieved at: http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=17173

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