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

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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.

STATES	GOOD TIME	EARNED TIME							NOTES
		Education	Vocation	Treatment	Work	Disaster / Conservation	Meritorious	Other	
Alabama §14-9-40 et seq.; §14-9-3 1	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 2	1/3 off prison term for good conduct.								
Arizona §41-1604.06 to .07 3	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. 4	30 days per month served for work practices, job	90 days per completion of GED	90 days per completion of vocational	90 days per completion of drug or alcohol					Earned time not to exceed 360 days, earned on



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	responsibilities, and rehabilitative activities.		certification	treatment					top of good time. Board of Corrections to create inmate classifications
<i>California Penal Code §2933 et seq. and §2935</i> 5	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. Jail inmates-1 day per 8 hours of participation in educational, vocational, substance abuse, life skills, and parenting programs	Certain inmates are only eligible to earn 15% of good time.
6 <i>Colorado §22.5-405 et seq.</i>	10 or 12 days per month served based on DOC standards of consistent progress	Up to 60 days per completion of program milestone or phase of an	Up to 60 days per completion of program milestone or phase of a	Up to 60 days per completion of program milestone or phase of a		1 day per 1 day of working at a disaster site, on top of	Up to 60 days per act of exceptional conduct.	An additional maximum 30 days or maximum 60 days for certain inmates without	Administrative segregation inmates eligible for earned time after first 90



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	with work, training, group living (personal hygiene, cooperation, double bunking, and social adjustment), counseling and self-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	educational program.	vocational program.	therapeutic program.		good time		penal code infractions within specified timeframes, has been program compliant, and has not been previously convicted of certain felonies; at the discretion of the parole board. Up to 60 days per completion of program milestone or phase of a reentry program.	days
Connecticut §18-98e 7								Up to 5 days per month for compliance with accountability plan, participation in eligible programs and good conduct. (credit may not be earned for only good conduct)	Total credit cannot exceed 5 days per month
Delaware 11 Del.C. §4381 8	2 days per month for first year served and 3 days per month for subsequent years served for no violations and work	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. Up to 60 days for successful	Good time not to exceed 36 days per year and total credit not to exceed 100 days per year; earned



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	toward rehabilitation							completion of program designed to reduce recidivism	time programs determined by DOC in line with authorized list
<i>Florida §944.275 and §944.801</i> 9	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
<i>Georgia §42-5-101, HB349 (2013)</i> 10		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. Inmates convicted of certain offenses are not eligible
<i>Hawaii N/A</i>									Requested development of earned time program
<i>Idaho §20-101D</i>							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		



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							the saving of lives, prevention of destruction of major property loss during a riot, or the prevention of an escape from a correctional facility.		
<i>Illinois</i> 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3 11	1 day per 1 day or 4.5 days per month served for compliance with rules and regulations	Good time multiplied by 1.5 for participation in educational program; 90 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, including compliance with rules and regulations and services to DOC, community or state; at the directors discretion.	Good time multiplied by 1.5 for participation in behavior modification program, life skills program, or reentry planning.	
<i>Indiana §35-50-6-3 et seq., HB 1006 (2013)</i> 12	1 day per 1 day served, 1 day per 2 days served or 1 day per 6 days served. For convictions after June 30, 2014: 1 day per 1 day served, 1 day per 3 days served, 1 day per 6 days served, or no credit.	Time earned per completion of literacy skills program (6 months), GED (6 months), High School Diploma (1 year), associate's degree (1 year), or bachelor's degree (2 years) on top of other good and earned time.	Up to 1 year for completion of one or more career and technical or vocational 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 reformatory program on top of good time	Total credit not to exceed 2 years or 1/3 of sentence, whichever is lesser.
<i>Iowa</i> 13	15/85 of a day for	12/10 of a day per		12/10 of a day	12/10 of a		Up to 365 days		Inmates are



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<i>§903A.2</i>	good conduct	1 day of participation in an educational program.		per 1 day of participation in a treatment program	day per 1 day working in the institution, Iowa state industries or an employment program TBD by DOC		for exemplary acts		either eligible for 15/85 good time or 12/10 earned time dependant on type of sentence, not both.
<i>Kansas §21-6821</i> 14	15% or 20% of prison term	90 days for completion of a GED on top of good time.	90 days for completion of a technical or vocational training program on top of good time.	90 days for completion of a substance abuse program on top of good time.				90 days for completion of any other program which has been shown to reduce offender's risk after release on top of good time.	
<i>Kentucky §197.045 and §197.047, SB 78 (2013)</i> 15	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 or an online or correspondence education program on top of good time.	90 days for completion of a drug treatment program or other evidence-based 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.	
<i>Louisiana RS 15: §571.3, RS 15: §833.1, RS 15: §128, HB 59 (2013)</i> 16	45 days per 30 days or 3 days per 17 days in custody for good behavior and performance of work or self-				1.5 days per 1 day working in lieu of incentive wages.	30 days per 30 days working on disaster remediation.		1.5 days per 1 day for performance in self-improvement activities in lieu of incentive wages.	Inmates earn either good time or earned time, not both. Total good time limited to 360



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	improvement activities.								days
<i>Maine 17-A MRSA §1253 (8) – (10)</i> 17	Up to 4 or 5 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.	
<i>Maryland Correctional Services §3-701 et seq.</i> 18	5 or 10 days per month served	5 days per month of participation in educational or other training courses on top of good time.	5 days per month of participation in vocational courses on top of good time.		5 days per month for satisfactory performance in assigned tasks on top of good time.			10 days per month of participation in special selected work projects or other special programs on top of good time.	Total credits not to exceed 20 days per month.
<i>Massachusetts 127:§129C and §129D</i> 19		5 days per month of participation in a GED educational course or other educational course	5 days per month of participation in a vocational program		5 days per month of working at a state hospital or state school; employed on work release or in prison industry.			5 days per month for any other program deemed valuable to an inmate's rehabilitation. Additional 5 days while confined in a prison camp on top of other earned time. One-time up to 10 day credit for program requiring six months satisfactory participation.	Total credits not to exceed 10 days per month. Habitual offenders cannot earn good time.



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<i>Michigan</i> §800.34									No credit. Disciplinary time: time added to prison term for misconduct to be considered by the parole board for release.
<i>Minnesota</i> §244.05									No credit. Time added to prison term for misconduct or non-participation in rehabilitative programming.
<i>Mississippi</i> §47-5-138, §47-5-138.1, and §47-5-142 20	4.5 days per 30 days served for compliance with good conduct and performance requirements.	30 days per month of participation in educational or instructional programs on top of good time; additional time of up to 10 days for every 30 days participation for completion			30 days per month for satisfactory participation in work projects on top of good time; additional time of up to 10 days for every 30 days participation for completion			30 days per month of participation in special incentive programs on top of good time; additional time of up to 10 days for every 30 days participation for participation.	
<i>Missouri</i> §558.041 and 14 CSR 10- 5.010 21	1 – 2 months per year for acceptable behavior and appropriate program involvement.								Statute Instructs Department to create a policy.



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Montana N/A									No credit.
22 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.								
23 Nevada §209.4465, §209.448, §209.449, and §209.443, AB 43 (2013), SB 71 (2013)	20 days per month served with no serious infractions and performing duties assigned.	10 days per month for participation in study on top of good time. 60 days for GED, 90 days for high school diploma, 120 days for 1 st associates degree and up to 90 days for additional degrees on top of all other time.	60 days for completion of a vocational education and training program on top of all other time; additional maximum 60 days for meritorious or exceptional achievement in completing the program.	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.	Board of prison commissioners supposed to adopt regulations allowing offenders sentenced after June 30, 1969 for crime committed before July 1, 1985 to earn credit for donating blood. Cannot earn more good time credit than time remaining on sentence. Limits reduction from minimum term of imprisonment to 58%



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<i>New Hampshire</i> §651:2(II-e), §651-A:22 and §651-A:22-a 24		90 days for GED. 120 days for high school diploma. 180 days for Associate's Degree and 180 days for Bachelor's Degree	60 days for successful completion of vocational programming	One-time 60 day reduction for meaningfully participating in recommended or mandated mental health and/or substance use treatment.				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
<i>New Jersey</i> §30:4-92; §30:4-92a and §30:4-140 25	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.				
<i>New Mexico</i> §33-2-34 26	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.
<i>New York Correction</i> §803 - §805 27		Total of 1/7, 1/6, or 1/3 of the sentence for completion of a GED .	Total of 1/7, 1/6, or 1/3 of the sentence for vocational trade certificate following at least six month of	Total of 1/7, 1/6, or 1/3 of the minimum sentence for alcohol and substance abuse treatment				6 months for participation in work and treatment and completion of "significant programmatic	6 month credit will be applied to the end of a prison term, on top of other credit earned.



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			vocational programming or at least 400 hours of community work crew service.	certificate.				accomplishment” (defined in statute).	
<i>North Carolina §148-13, §15A-1340.13(d), §15A-1340.18 and P&P Ch. B, sec. 0100</i> 28		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 .
<i>North Dakota §12-54.1</i> 29							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.	No more than 1 day for 6 days served
<i>Ohio §2967.193</i> 30		1 or 5 days per month of participation in an education program	1 or 5 days per month of participation in vocational training	1 or 5 days per month of participation in substance abuse treatment or sex offender treatment	1 or 5 days per month working in prison industries			1 or 5 days per month of participation in a constructive program TBD by DOC with specific standards for performance	May earn time for up to 2 programs and total credit cannot exceed 8% of total days of sentence.



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31 <i>Oklahoma</i> §57-138, §57-138.1, and §57-65	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; 200 days for a bachelor's degree; 100 credits for an associate's degree.	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. 3 days for each pint of blood in first 30 days, up to 5 days for each pint during any sixty-day period thereafter for jail inmates	
32 <i>Oregon</i> §421.121	Total of 20% or 30% of prison term on crime for appropriate institutional behavior								
33 <i>Pennsylvania</i> 61 Pa CSA §4501 - §4512								1/4 or 1/6 the minimum sentence for participation in and completion of evidence-based program plan as determined by risk assessments	Eligibility determined by sentencing court.
34 <i>Rhode Island</i> §42-56-24	Up to 10 days per month for good			5 days per month of participation;	2 days per month		3 days per month for	5 days per month for programs that	Inmates serving time for murder,



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	behavior.			30 days for completion	working in prison industries on top of good time.		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.	address inmate's personal needs related to criminal behavior and 30 days for completion of a program on top of good time.	kidnapping a minor, sexual assault, or child molestation cannot earn good time
South Carolina §24-13-210 to 235 35	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.	Up to 1 day for every 2 or 6 days per month for actively enrolled and participating in vocational or technical training; granted upon successful completion on top of good time.						
South Dakota N/A									No credit.
Tennessee §41-21-236 36	Up to 8 days per month served for good institutional	Up to 8 days per month of participation on	Up to 8 days per month of participation on		Up to 8 days per month working on				Inmates can earn up to 16 days per month



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	behavior.	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.	top of good time; 60 days for completion of a vocational educational diploma		top of good time				and one educational completion credit.
<i>Texas</i> <i>Gov. Code</i> <i>§498.002 -</i> <i>§498.003</i> 37		10 to 30 days per month of participation in an educational program; literacy program only if inmate is a tutor or pupil	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			
<i>Utah</i> <i>§77-27-5.4</i> 38								Minimum 4 months for completion of one program identified in case action plan.	Earn credit for up to two programs. Parole board has discretion to award additional time.
<i>Vermont</i> <i>28 VSA §811 to</i> <i>§813</i> 39					30 days per month for working in a work camp.				
<i>Virginia</i> <i>§53.1-191,</i> <i>§53.1-202 et</i> <i>seq.</i> 40							Time awarded is agency discretion for assistance in preventing an escape; blood donation to another	4.5 days per 30 served for participation and cooperation in programs based on a risk assessment, related to successful reentry	



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							prisoner; extraordinary service; suffers bodily injury		
<i>Washington §9.94A.729</i> 41	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.
<i>West Virginia §28-5-27</i> 42	1 day for 1 day served as determined by DOC rules			See other			Time can be awarded at agency discretion, with approval of governor for exceptional work or service.		
<i>Wisconsin §302.113(3) and §302.11</i>									10 days – 40 days added to mandatory release date for violating rules or not performing required duties.
<i>Wyoming §7-13-420 and P&P #1.500</i> 43	Up to 10 or 15 days per month based on inmate performance, conduct and behavior.								Statute Instructs the governor, parole board and DOC to create policy

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, November 2011 (updated Jan. 2015)



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