



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

**Good Time and Earned Time Policies for People in State Prisons
(as established by law)**

December 2020

This chart highlights sentence credit policies listed in state statutes that are applicable to people in state prisons. Earned time is defined as a credit against a 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 for following prison rules and required participation in activities.

STATE	GOOD TIME	EARNED TIME							NOTES
		Education	Vocation	Treatment	Work	Disaster / Conservation	Meritorious	Other	
<i>Alabama</i> § 14-9-41	75, 40, or 20 days per 30 days served depending on classification (I, II, and III respectively).								Classifications are based on behavior, discipline, work practices and job responsibility.
<i>Alaska</i> § 33.20.010	1/3 off prison term for good conduct.								
<i>Arizona</i> § 41-1604.06, § 41-1604.07	1 day per 6 served based on classifications created by DOC. *3 days per 7 served if conviction was for an enumerated drug crime, person has completed drug treatment, and has not previously been convicted of a violent or aggravated felony.								Classifications to be based on work performance, rule compliance, education, training, treatment programs, and performance of any assignments of confidence or trust.
<i>Arkansas</i> § 12-29-201 et seq.	Up to 30 days per month served based on classification.	*Up to 90 days for completion of GED.	*Up to 90 days for completion of vocational certification.	*Up to 90 days for completion of drug or alcohol treatment offered by DOC.				*Up to 90 days for pre-release and other programs or assignments approved by board.	Classifications based on discipline, behavior, job responsibilities, and involvement in rehabilitative activities. *Credit for these categories not to exceed 360 days.
<i>California Penal Code</i> § 2933 et seq.; § 2935	6 months per 6 months served or a lesser amount of credit based on the same ratio. Regulations to be set by the secretary of the DOC.	*See other.	*See other.	*See other.		2 days per 1 day confined if assigned to a conservation camp or for working as an inmate firefighter or after completion of training for those either.	Up to 12 months for a heroic act in a life-threatening situation or for providing exceptional assistance in maintaining safety and security of a prison.	*1 – 6 weeks for completion of programming as determined by DOC, but shall include academic and vocational programs, and core programs such as anger management, social life skills, and substance abuse programs.	*Credit for these categories not to exceed 6 weeks over period of 12 months confinement.

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<i>Colorado</i> § 17-22.5-405	10 or 12 days per month served (depending on classification) based on proof of consistent progress in categories required by DOC.	*Up to 60 days per completion of program milestone or phase of an educational program.	*Up to 60 days per completion of program milestone or phase of a vocational program.	*Up to 60 days per completion of program milestone or phase of a therapeutic program.		1 day per 1 day of working at a disaster site.	*Up to 60 days per act of exceptional conduct.	*Up to 60 days per completion of program milestone or phase of a reentry program.	DOC categories: work, group living, counseling, Colorado Diagnostic Program goals, complying with release conditions (if applicable), not harassing victim, and education/ literacy programs. *Credit for these categories not to exceed 120 days.
<i>Connecticut</i> § 18-98a et seq.; § 18-7a	10 days per month (pro rata for any portion) for first 5 years of sentence, then 12 days per month (pro rata for any portion) for each subsequent year.				1 day per 7 consecutive days worked.		Not more than 120 days (commissioner's discretion) for exceptional personal achievement, accomplishment, and other outstandingly meritorious performance.	Up to 5 days per month for accountability plan compliance, participation in eligible programs and good conduct.	
<i>Delaware</i> 11 Del. C. § 4381	2 days per month for first year served and 3 days per month for subsequent years awarded for no violations and work toward rehabilitation.	Up to 5 days per month for participation in education programs.			Up to 5 days per month for participation in work programs.			Up to 5 days per month for participation in rehabilitation or other programs approved by DOC. Up to 60 days for completion of program designed to reduce recidivism.	No more than 160 days "good time" in total may be earned in 365 days.
<i>Florida</i> § 944.275 and § 944.801	10 days per month served for each sentence imposed (pro rata for any portion) awarded for participation in training, working diligently, using time constructively, or other positive activities.	*Up to 6 days for 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 an outstanding deed or service.		*These categories are one-time awards.
<i>Georgia</i> § 42-5-101		See other.			See other.			Up to 1 day per 1 day of participation in educational or other counseling program, satisfactorily completing work tasks, and good behavior.	
<i>Hawaii</i> N/A									
<i>Idaho</i> § 20-101D							Up to 15 days per month sentenced for extraordinary act of heroism or for outstanding service to the state of Idaho.		

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<i>Illinois</i> 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3	1 day per 1 day, 4.5 days per month, or 7.5 days per month served depending on conviction.	*Good time multiplied by 1.5 for successful completion of educational program. 90 days for completion of GED, 180 days for a bachelor's degree, and 180 days for a master's or professional degree.		*Good time multiplied by 1.5 for successful completion of substance abuse or behavior modification program.	*Good time multiplied by 1.5 for successful completion of correctional industry assignments.			*Good time multiplied by 1.5 for successful completion of life skills program or reentry planning. Up to 180 days at director's discretion for "good conduct."	*These multipliers are only available for those receiving 1 day of credit per 1 day served.
<i>Indiana</i> § 35-50-6-3.1; § 35-50-6-3.3	1 day per 1 day served, 1 day per 3 days served, or 1 day per 6 days served depending on classification (Class A, B, and C respectively).	*6 months for GED, 1 year for high school diploma, up to 1 years for associates degree, and up to 2 years for bachelor's degree.	*Up to 1 year for completion of career and technical or vocational education programs.	*Up to 6 months for completion of a substance abuse program.				*Up to 6 months for completion of a reformatory program. *Up to 6 months for completion of a literacy and basic life skills program. *An amount determined by the department up to the maximum for an individualized case management plan as defined in § 35-50-6-0.5.	*Total credits in these categories not to exceed the lesser of 2 years or 1/3 of sentence.
<i>Iowa</i> § 903A.2	1 2/10 th s days per 1 day served or 15/85 th s of a day per 1 day served depending on classification category (Categories A and B respectively).						Up to 365 days for exemplary acts of Category A.		Good time issued for good conduct, although Category A must also participate in certain programs.
<i>Kansas</i> § 21-6821	*Not more than 15% or 20% of prison term (percentage depending on type of crime and severity level).	See other.	See other.	See other.				*Not more than 120 days total for GED, technical or vocational training program, substance abuse treatment, or any other program designated by secretary.	*Circumstances to qualify and amount allotted to be determined by secretary of corrections.
<i>Kentucky</i> § 197.045; § 197.047	Up to 10 days per month served (based on conduct).	90 days per completion of GED, high school diploma, college degree, or approved postsecondary education diploma or degree.	90 days per completion of vocational or technical education program.	Up to 90 days per completion of a drug treatment program.	**1 day per 40 hours worked in a governmental services program or for maintenance or operational services of a detention facility.		*Up to 7 days per month for exceptionally meritorious service or duties of outstanding importance. *Up to 7 days per month for acts of exceptional service during emergency.	Up to 90 days per completion of evidence-based program or any other approved promising practice or life skills program.	*Awards given at discretion of commissioner. **Credit given at discretion of DOC, however if given must be uniform and in this amount.

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<i>Louisiana</i> RS 15: §571.3; RS 15: § 833.1; RS 15: § 828	30 days per 30 days, 3 days per 17 days, 13 days per 7 days, or 1 day per 3 days depending on type of conviction.				180 days for participation in workforce development work release program.	30 days per 30 days working on disaster remediation.			Good time earned through good behavior and self-improvement activities and/or work.
<i>Maine</i> N/A									
<i>Maryland</i> <i>Correctional Services</i> § 3-701 et seq.	5 or 10 days per month or 5 days depending on conviction.	See other.	See other.	See other.	5 days per month for performing work tasks satisfactorily. See other.			5 days per month for satisfactory progress in or completion of courses/therapy in: vocation, education, workforce development, cognitive-behavior, substance abuse, life skills, or antiviolence. Up to 20 days (or 10 depending on conviction) per month for special work projects or other special programs.	Credits to be prorated for portions of the time served.
<i>Massachusetts</i> 127 § 129C and § 129D	2 ½ days per month served in a prison camp.	*7.5 or 5 days (depending on incarceration location) per month for receiving a GED or participating in other educational course.	*7.5 or 5 days (depending on incarceration location) per month for participation in a vocational program.		*7.5 or 5 days (depending on incarceration location) per month for working at a state hospital, state school, employed on work release, or in the prison industry.			*7.5 or 5 days (depending on incarceration location) per month for other programs. Up to 10 days for at least 6 month completed program at designation of commissioner. Up to 80 days for successful completion of a program or activity at discretion of commissioner.	*Total credits from these categories not to exceed 15 or 10 days (depending on incarceration location) per month.
<i>Michigan</i> N/A									
<i>Minnesota</i> N/A									
<i>Mississippi</i> § 47-5-138; § 47-5-138.1; § 47-5-142	4.5 days per 30 days for compliance with good conduct and performance requirements.	*30 days per 30 days of participation in educational or instructional programs.			*30 days per 30 days for participation in work projects.			*30 days per 30 days of participation in special incentive program.	*Requirement that individual have "trustworthy status."
<i>Missouri</i> § 558.041									DOC instructed to create credit policy.

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Montana N/A									
Nebraska § 83-1,107	Six months per year served (pro rata for any portion). Additional 3 days per 12 months without a Class I or II offense or more than 3 Class III offenses.								
Nevada § 209.4465; § 209.448; § 209.449	20 days per month served with no serious infractions and performing duties assigned.	60 days for GED, 90 days for HS diploma, 120 days for 1 st associate's degree and up to 90 days for additional degrees at director's discretion.	60 days for completion of vocational education or training or any other program approved by director- up to 60 days more for exceptional achievement in completing program.	Up to 60 days for completion of alcohol or other substance abuse treatment.	See other.	See other.	Up to 90 days per year for exceptional meritorious service.	Up to 10 days per month for diligence in "labor and study." At director's discretion up to 10 days per month for participation in restitution center, reentry program, conservation camp, work release, or another program.	At governor's determination through executive order- up to 5 days per month may be deducted (must be uniformly applied to everyone).
New Hampshire § 651-A:22; § 651-A:22-a	Up to 12.5 days per month.	90 days for GED, 120 days for HS diploma, and 180 days each for associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees.	60 days for successful completion of authorized vocational program.	60 days for meaningfully participating in recommended or mandated mental health and/or substance use treatment.	60 days for earning a certificate of apprenticeship in a correctional industries job and for each master's certificate earned.			60 days for a parent who meaningfully participates in programming offered by Family Connections Center. 60 days each for any other programs the commissioner deems valuable for rehabilitation.	
New Jersey § 30:4-92; § 30:4-92a; § 30:4-140	Time awarded increases with minimum and maximum sentence- see chart in §30:4-140.	See other. Commissioner may award extra time for achievements in education.	See other. Commissioner may award extra time for achievements in workforce training.		For work in honor camps, farms or details: 3 days per month for first year, then 5 days per month.			Up to 1 day for each 5 days of education, workforce skills, and vocational training.	
New Mexico § 33-2-34	Up to 4, 8 or 30 days per month dependent on type of crime and quality of participation in approved programs.	*3 months for GED, 4 months for associate's degree, 5 months for bachelor's degree or graduate qualification.	See other.	See other.			*Some award amount (at discretion of director) for heroic act, extraordinary conduct for benefit of the state, or extraordinary conduct showing commitment to self-rehabilitation.	*1 month for completion of vocational, substance abuse, or mental health program (3 months if they demonstrate their disability prevents acquisition of GED).	*Credit from these categories not to exceed more than 1 year per award, and awards totaled not to exceed 1-year credit for a 12-month period.

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<i>New York Correction Law § 803 - § 805</i>	*Up to 1/3 of sentence (depending on type of sentence) for good behavior and performance of duties assigned or progress in an assigned treatment program.	See other.	See other.	See other.	See other.				*1/3, 1/6, or 1/7 of sentence (depending on type of sentence) for participation in the assigned work and treatment program and completion of one of the following: GED, alcohol/ substance abuse treatment, vocational trade certificate (with at least 6 months of programming), or at least 400 hours as part of community work crew.	*Credits not to exceed 1/3, 1/6, or 1/7 in aggregate. 6-month credit will be applied to end of prison term for successful participation in the assigned work and treatment programs and completes one or more significant programmatic accomplishments, including participation in two years college programming, obtaining an associate degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctoral degree, participation as an inmate program associate for two years, receiving certification for apprenticeship program, or working in specified programs for two years.
<i>North Carolina § 148-13; § 15A-1340.13; § 15A-1340.18; § 15A-1340.20</i>										Statute instructs secretary to adopt rules, rates, and circumstances determining earned time allocation.
<i>North Dakota § 12-54.1-01 et seq.</i>							Some amount (approved by the director) for heroic act, outstanding performance, or as a special control or security measure.*	5 days per month for good performance. Criteria to include participation in recommended treatment and programs and good work performance.		*2 days per month maximum if given for these reasons.
<i>Ohio § 2967.193</i>		*1 or 5 days per month for participation in an education program. 90 days or 10% of sentence (whichever is less) for a GED, and for a college certification program.	*1 or 5 days per month for participation in vocational training. 90 days or 10% of sentence (whichever is less) for a technical vocational school program.	*1 or 5 days per month for participation in substance abuse treatment. 90 days or 10% of sentence (whichever is less) for a community drug program, and for all 3 phases of the department's outpatient drug treatment.	*1 or 5 days per month for employment in prison industries. 90 days or 10% of sentence (whichever is less) for meeting criteria for a certificate of achievement and employability.				*1 or 5 days per month for participation in any other "constructive program."	*May earn up to 5 days per month for a second program or activity— these credits cannot exceed 8% of sentence.
<i>Oklahoma § 57-138; § 57-138.1; § 57-65</i>	*0, 22, 33, 44, 45 or 60 credits per month depending on class level and criminal history.	90 days for GED, 100 days for associate's degree, 200 days for bachelor's degree, 10-30 days for other program not specified.	80 days for vocational certificate.	70 days for alcohol/ chemical abuse treatment program (minimum of 4 months).			Up to 100 days per meritorious act (DOC shall not have authority to revoke credit).	3 days for each donated pint of blood in first 30 days, and 5 days for each pint during any sixty-day period thereafter (if housed in county jail).		*See §57-138 for class stratifications.

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<i>Oregon § 421.121</i>	Up to 20% of term of incarceration for good behavior and participation in basic skills development program.									Credit may not be used to shorten actual confinement to less than 6 months.
<i>Pennsylvania N/A</i>										
<i>Rhode Island § 42-56-24; § 42-56-26</i>	10 days per month for good behavior.			5 days per month for participation in recommended programs, with up to 30 days for completion.	2 days per month working in institutional industries.		3 days per month (max of 36 days per year) for heroic acts, extraordinary ideas that benefit programs or the state, and/or high efficiency or performance in academic or vocational education program.			People serving time for murder, kidnapping a minor, sexual assault, or child molestation cannot earn good time.
<i>South Carolina § 24-13-210 to 235</i>	3 or 20 days per month (depending on offense category) for good conduct.	See other.	See other.		If in custody at local detention facility: up to 1 day per 2 days working a duty assignment and 1 day per 8 hours labor on public works or ways.			*Up to 1 day per 2 days or 6 days per month (depending on offense category) for participation in an academic, technical, or vocational training program.		*Max annual credit for this category is 180 days or 72 days (depending on offense category).
<i>South Dakota N/A</i>										
<i>Tennessee § 41-21-236</i>	Up to 8 days per month for good behavior.	*60 days for completing one or more of the following: GED, 2 or 4-year college degree, 2 or 4-year applied sciences certification, and/or the vocational requirement.	*60 days for completing a vocational education diploma and/or an educational requirement.	60 days for at least 9 months substance use disorder treatment.				Up to 8 days per month for satisfactory program performance.		*May receive this award only one time regardless of completion of more than one degree or requirement. Can earn a total of up to 16 days per month.
<i>Texas Gov. Code § 498.002 - § 498.003</i>	10, 20, or up to 30 days per month depending on classification.	See other.	See other.	See other.	See other.			Up to 15 days per 30 days served for industrial, agricultural, educational, treatment, or vocational programs or other work programs.		
<i>Utah § 77-27-5.4</i>								4+ months each for up to 2 recommended and approved programs.		Statute gives board discretion to grant additional earned time.
<i>Vermont 28 V.S.A. § 811 to § 819</i>	5 days per month for good behavior, no new convictions, and milestones met.			1 day per day for substance use disorder treatment.	Up to 30 days per month for time in work camp.		Up to 30 days for an act of heroism at commissioner's discretion.			

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Virginia § 53.1-191; § 53.1-202.2 et seq.							Some amount at board's discretion for preventing an escape, blood donation to a prisoner, extraordinary service, or bodily injury.	Up to 4.5 days per 30 days for participation in assigned programs.	Four levels of classification for sentence credits: Level I (15 days for every 30) for participation and cooperation with all programs assigned and no more than one minor infraction. Level II (7.5 days for every 30) for participation and cooperation with all programs, job assignments and education curriculums but require improvement in one area. Level III (3.5 days for every 30) for participation and cooperation with all programs, job assignments and education curriculums but require significant improvement in two or more areas. Level IV (no credit) for willfully failing to participate in or cooperate with programs, job assignments and educational curriculums.
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.*	Statute instructs correctional agency with jurisdiction to develop procedures to earn time. Good time cannot exceed 1/3 of total sentence. For some offenses, limit is 10% or 15%. *50% does not apply for people convicted after July 1, 2010.
West Virginia § 15A-4-17	1 day per 1 day.			See other.			Some amount (approved by commissioner) for exceptional work or service.		
Wisconsin N/A									
Wyoming § 7-13-420									Statute instructs governor to create policy for good time allowances.

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