

HOW RHODE ISLAND SCHOOLS COMPARE

2007 Edition

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION
FINANCE RANKINGS

Compiled as a public service by:



Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council

U.S., Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts Comparison

Table 1
Estimated Current Expenditures Per Pupil (Fall Enrollment)

	1995-96			2005-06			Change 1996-2006	
	Amount	Rank	% of US	Amount	Rank	% of US	Percent	Amount
U.S. Average*	\$5,695	-	-	\$9,022	-	-	58.4%	\$3,327
Connecticut	\$8,246	4	144.8%	\$12,436	3	137.8%	50.8%	\$4,190
Massachusetts	6,844	7	120.2%	12,276	5	136.1%	79.4%	5,432
Rhode Island	7,304	5	128.3%	11,089	9	122.9%	51.8%	3,785

Table 2
Source of Total Public School Revenue

	1995-96			2005-06		
	Local	State	Federal	Local	State	Federal
U.S. Average*	45.1%	48.1%	6.7%	43.3%	47.6%	9.1%
Connecticut	56.5%	39.1%	4.4%	54.8%	39.0%	6.2%
Massachusetts	59.2%	35.5%	5.3%	51.4%	42.9%	5.6%
Rhode Island	53.4%	41.5%	5.1%	60.2%	36.5%	3.4%

Table 3
Estimated Average Teacher Salary

	1995-96			2005-06			Change 1996-2006	
	Amount	Rank	% of US	Amount	Rank	% of US	Percent	Amount
US Average*	\$37,702	-	-	\$49,109	-	-	30.3%	11,407
Connecticut	\$50,254	1	133.3%	\$59,499	1	121.2%	18.4%	9,245
Massachusetts	42,264	7	112.1%	56,587	7	115.2%	33.9%	14,323
Rhode Island	41,765	9	110.8%	54,730	8	111.4%	31.0%	12,965

*US average includes District of Columbia

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - November 2006"; "Rankings of the States 1997"; RIPEC Calculations

Table 4
Estimated Average Teacher Salaries 2005-06 & 1995-96

State	2005-06	R	1995-96	R	Change (in current \$)		
					1995-96 to 2005-06		
					Amount	Change	Rank
US Average*	\$49,109	-	\$37,702	-	\$11,407	30.3%	-
Connecticut	\$59,499	1	\$50,254	1	\$9,245	18.4%	47
California	59,345	2	42,259	8	17,086	40.4%	9
Michigan	58,482	3	46,832	5	11,650	24.9%	37
Illinois	57,819	4	40,919	11	16,900	41.3%	7
New Jersey	57,707	5	47,910	4	9,797	20.4%	43
New York	57,354	6	48,115	3	9,239	19.2%	45
Massachusetts	56,587	7	42,264	7	14,323	33.9%	17
Rhode Island	54,730	8	41,765	9	12,965	31.0%	24
Maryland	54,486	9	41,160	10	13,326	32.4%	20
Delaware	54,264	10	40,533	12	13,731	33.9%	18
Pennsylvania	54,027	11	46,087	6	7,940	17.2%	49
Alaska	53,553	12	49,171	2	4,382	8.9%	50
Hawaii	51,599	13	35,807	21	15,792	44.1%	3
Ohio	50,314	14	37,835	16	12,479	33.0%	19
Oregon	48,981	15	39,706	13	9,275	23.4%	39
Minnesota	48,489	16	36,937	18	11,552	31.3%	23
Georgia	48,300	17	34,002	26	14,298	42.1%	6
Indiana	47,255	18	37,675	17	9,580	25.4%	36
Vermont	46,622	19	36,295	19	10,327	28.5%	30
Wisconsin	46,390	20	38,182	14	8,208	21.5%	42
Washington	46,326	21	37,853	15	8,473	22.4%	41
Colorado	45,616	22	35,364	23	10,252	29.0%	28
New Hampshire	45,263	23	35,792	22	9,471	26.5%	33
Arizona	44,672	24	32,993	31	11,679	35.4%	16
Nevada	44,426	25	36,167	20	8,259	22.8%	40
North Carolina	43,922	26	30,411	42	13,511	44.4%	2
Virginia	43,823	27	34,792	25	9,031	26.0%	35
Idaho	43,390	28	30,891	40	12,499	40.5%	8
Florida	43,302	29	33,330	28	9,972	29.9%	27
Wyoming	43,255	30	31,571	37	11,684	37.0%	11
South Carolina	43,242	31	31,622	36	11,620	36.7%	13
Tennessee	42,537	32	33,126	29	9,411	28.4%	31
Arkansas	42,093	33	29,533	43	12,560	42.5%	5
Kentucky	41,903	34	33,080	30	8,823	26.7%	32
Texas	41,744	35	32,000	35	9,744	30.5%	25
New Mexico	41,637	36	29,074	45	12,563	43.2%	4
Kansas	41,369	37	35,023	24	6,346	18.1%	48
Nebraska	41,026	38	31,496	38	9,530	30.3%	26
Iowa	40,877	39	32,372	33	8,505	26.3%	34
Maine	40,737	40	32,869	32	7,868	23.9%	38
Alabama	40,347	41	31,313	39	9,034	28.9%	29
Utah	40,316	42	30,588	41	9,728	31.8%	21
Louisiana	40,253	43	26,800	49	13,453	50.2%	1
Missouri	39,922	44	33,341	27	6,581	19.7%	44
Montana	39,832	45	29,364	44	10,468	35.6%	15
Oklahoma	38,772	46	28,404	46	10,368	36.5%	14
West Virginia	38,284	47	32,155	34	6,129	19.1%	46
Mississippi	37,924	48	27,692	47	10,232	36.9%	12
North Dakota	37,773	49	26,969	48	10,804	40.1%	10
South Dakota	34,709	50	26,346	50	8,363	31.7%	22

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - November 2006"; "Rankings of the States 1997"; RIPEC Calculations

*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island ranked 8th in 2004-05

Table 5
Average Public School Teacher Salaries
% of National Average 2005-06 & 1995-96

State	2005-06		1995-96	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
U.S. Average*	-	-	-	-
Connecticut	121.2%	1	133.3%	1
California	120.8%	2	112.1%	8
Michigan	119.1%	3	124.2%	5
Illinois	117.7%	4	108.5%	11
New Jersey	117.5%	5	127.1%	4
New York	116.8%	6	127.6%	3
Massachusetts	115.2%	7	112.1%	7
Rhode Island	111.4%	8	110.8%	9
Maryland	110.9%	9	109.2%	10
Delaware	110.5%	10	107.5%	12
Pennsylvania	110.0%	11	122.2%	6
Alaska	109.0%	12	130.4%	2
Hawaii	105.1%	13	95.0%	21
Ohio	102.5%	14	100.4%	16
Oregon	99.7%	15	105.3%	13
Minnesota	98.7%	16	98.0%	18
Georgia	98.4%	17	90.2%	26
Indiana	96.2%	18	99.9%	17
Vermont	94.9%	19	96.3%	19
Wisconsin	94.5%	20	101.3%	14
Washington	94.3%	21	100.4%	15
Colorado	92.9%	22	93.8%	23
New Hampshire	92.2%	23	94.9%	22
Arizona	91.0%	24	87.5%	31
Nevada	90.5%	25	95.9%	20
North Carolina	89.4%	26	80.7%	42
Virginia	89.2%	27	92.3%	25
Idaho	88.4%	28	81.9%	40
Florida	88.2%	29	88.4%	28
Wyoming	88.1%	30	83.7%	37
South Carolina	88.1%	31	83.9%	36
Tennessee	86.6%	32	87.9%	29
Arkansas	85.7%	33	78.3%	43
Kentucky	85.3%	34	87.7%	30
Texas	85.0%	35	84.9%	35
New Mexico	84.8%	36	77.1%	45
Kansas	84.2%	37	92.9%	24
Nebraska	83.5%	38	83.5%	38
Iowa	83.2%	39	85.9%	33
Maine	83.0%	40	87.2%	32
Alabama	82.2%	41	83.1%	39
Utah	82.1%	42	81.1%	41
Louisiana	82.0%	43	71.1%	49
Missouri	81.3%	44	88.4%	27
Montana	81.1%	45	77.9%	44
Oklahoma	79.0%	46	75.3%	46
West Virginia	78.0%	47	85.3%	34
Mississippi	77.2%	48	73.4%	47
North Dakota	76.9%	49	71.5%	48
South Dakota	70.7%	50	69.9%	50

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - November 2006"; "Rankings of the States 1997"; RIPEC Calculations

*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island Ranked 8th in 2004-05

Table 6
Estimated Average Salaries of Instructional Staff
in Public Schools 2004-05

State	2005-06		1995-96	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
U.S. Average*	\$50,932	-	\$39,413	-
Connecticut	60,674	1	51,951	2
Illinois	60,528	2	42,411	12
New Jersey	60,412	3	50,435	3
Alaska	60,376	4	50,059	4
California	59,762	5	44,027	8
New York	58,630	6	48,754	5
Michigan	58,592	7	46,832	7
Rhode Island	57,915	8	42,498	11
Massachusetts	57,030	9	52,663	1
Delaware	56,865	10	42,177	14
Maryland	56,826	11	42,958	10
Arizona	56,559	12	43,542	9
Pennsylvania	55,652	13	47,087	6
Hawaii	53,427	14	37,057	23
Ohio	51,682	15	39,038	18
Oregon	51,273	16	40,980	15
Georgia	50,705	17	35,786	26
Minnesota	50,579	18	37,680	21
Wisconsin	50,497	19	39,212	17
Indiana	49,780	20	38,832	19
Washington	48,833	21	39,594	16
Vermont	48,150	22	37,054	24
New Hampshire	47,338	23	42,188	13
Colorado	47,306	24	36,353	25
Nevada	46,657	25	37,879	20
South Carolina	46,061	26	33,155	36
Virginia	45,876	27	35,660	27
Maine	45,066	28	33,994	31
Wyoming	44,835	29	32,493	38
Florida	44,560	30	34,411	29
Texas	44,323	31	33,861	33
Tennessee	44,173	32	34,412	28
Arkansas	43,950	33	30,025	45
North Carolina	43,922	34	31,622	42
Nebraska	43,800	35	34,023	30
Idaho	43,398	36	32,285	40
Kansas	42,584	37	37,626	22
Iowa	42,486	38	33,529	34
Utah	42,429	39	31,780	41
Alabama	42,384	40	32,459	39
Louisiana	41,934	41	28,167	48
Kentucky	41,847	42	33,115	37
Missouri	41,801	43	33,870	32
New Mexico	41,637	44	29,389	46
Oklahoma	40,370	45	30,584	44
West Virginia	39,856	46	33,296	35
Montana	39,832	47	30,908	43
Mississippi	39,190	48	28,712	47
North Dakota	39,059	49	27,153	50
South Dakota	35,983	50	27,354	49

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - November 2006"; "Rankings of the States 1997"; RIPEC Calculations

*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island ranked 8th in 2004-05

Table 7
Estimated per Pupil Current Expenditures, 2005-06 & 1995-96

State	2005-06	R	1995-96	R	Change (in current \$)		
					1995-96 to 2005-06		
					Amount	Change	Rank
U.S. Average*	\$9,022	-	\$5,695	-	\$3,327	58.4%	-
New Jersey	\$13,781	1	\$9,318	1	\$4,463	47.9%	40
New York	13,551	2	8,468	3	5,083	60.0%	26
Connecticut	12,436	3	8,246	4	4,190	50.8%	36
Vermont	12,326	4	6,505	10	5,821	89.5%	4
Massachusetts	12,276	5	6,844	7	5,432	79.4%	9
Wyoming	11,971	6	5,875	15	6,096	103.8%	1
Delaware	11,423	7	6,903	6	4,520	65.5%	17
Maine	11,285	8	6,196	13	5,089	82.1%	7
Rhode Island	11,089	9	7,304	5	3,785	51.8%	35
Illinois	10,271	10	5,579	22	4,692	84.1%	5
New Hampshire	10,206	11	5,662	18	4,544	80.3%	8
Alaska	10,171	12	8,655	2	1,516	17.5%	50
Wisconsin	10,072	13	6,319	12	3,753	59.4%	28
Michigan	10,069	14	6,731	9	3,338	49.6%	38
Pennsylvania	10,052	15	6,799	8	3,253	47.8%	41
Ohio	10,034	16	5,294	28	4,740	89.5%	3
West Virginia	9,790	17	6,099	14	3,691	60.5%	24
Minnesota	9,675	18	5,808	17	3,867	66.6%	16
Maryland	9,622	19	6,407	11	3,215	50.2%	37
Virginia	9,275	20	5,640	20	3,635	64.5%	19
Georgia	9,147	21	5,354	27	3,793	70.8%	12
Indiana	8,978	22	5,625	21	3,353	59.6%	27
Louisiana	8,812	23	4,412	44	4,400	99.7%	2
Hawaii	8,745	24	5,643	19	3,102	55.0%	32
New Mexico	8,629	25	4,704	39	3,925	83.4%	6
South Carolina	8,531	26	4,855	36	3,676	75.7%	10
Montana	8,361	27	5,220	30	3,141	60.2%	25
Colorado	8,227	28	5,121	33	3,106	60.7%	23
California	8,205	29	4,876	35	3,329	68.3%	15
Kentucky	8,195	30	5,170	31	3,025	58.5%	29
Kansas	8,178	31	5,374	25	2,804	52.2%	34
Washington	8,166	32	5,568	23	2,598	46.7%	42
Oregon	8,141	33	5,830	16	2,311	39.6%	47
Nebraska	7,980	34	5,136	32	2,844	55.4%	31
South Dakota	7,911	35	4,564	42	3,347	73.3%	11
Iowa	7,807	36	5,423	24	2,384	44.0%	46
North Dakota	7,760	37	4,578	41	3,182	69.5%	13
Missouri	7,680	38	4,777	38	2,903	60.8%	22
Florida	7,650	39	5,277	29	2,373	45.0%	45
North Carolina	7,465	40	4,995	34	2,470	49.4%	39
Texas	7,397	41	5,359	26	2,038	38.0%	49
Alabama	7,303	42	4,414	43	2,889	65.5%	18
Nevada	7,085	43	4,837	37	2,248	46.5%	43
Tennessee	7,079	44	4,649	40	2,430	52.3%	33
Idaho	6,966	45	4,312	45	2,654	61.5%	21
Mississippi	6,763	46	4,014	48	2,749	68.5%	14
Oklahoma	6,745	47	4,141	46	2,604	62.9%	20
Arkansas	6,309	48	4,058	47	2,251	55.5%	30
Arizona	5,585	49	4,012	49	1,573	39.2%	48
Utah	5,347	50	3,670	50	1,677	45.7%	44

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - November 2006"; "Rankings of the States 1997"; RIPEC Calculations

*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island ranked 7th in 2004-05

Table 8
% of Public School Revenue from Local Govt's
2005-06 & 1995-96

State	2005-06		1995-96	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
U.S. Average*	43.3	-	45.1	-
Nevada	65.2	1	63.6	4
Illinois	63.5	2	66.8	2
Rhode Island	60.2	3	53.4	14
New Jersey	60.0	4	56.0	10
Missouri	57.4	5	54.5	13
Pennsylvania	56.5	6	52.6	16
Connecticut	54.8	7	56.5	9
Nebraska	54.8	7	58.3	8
Virginia	53.2	9	58.6	7
Texas	53.0	10	48.7	20
New Hampshire	51.8	11	90.1	1
Maryland	51.4	12	54.9	11
Massachusetts	51.4	12	59.2	6
North Dakota	50.3	14	46.5	21
Maine	49.7	15	46.2	22
Colorado	49.7	15	50.9	18
South Dakota	49.0	17	60.7	5
Florida	48.6	18	44.1	24
New York	47.5	19	54.9	11
Ohio	47.2	20	52.8	15
Georgia	47.0	21	41.3	27
Iowa	47.0	21	45.7	23
South Carolina	45.2	23	38.7	31
Wyoming	44.5	24	42.7	26
Indiana	42.6	25	40.5	29
Tennessee	42.2	26	40.9	28
Wisconsin	41.1	27	52.6	16
Arizona	40.5	28	49.3	19
Montana	40.3	29	43.5	25
Oregon	40.1	30	37.8	33
Louisiana	38.5	31	36.8	34
Arkansas	37.9	32	26.1	44
Utah	35.3	33	35.2	35
Oklahoma	33.2	34	28.2	41
Kansas	33.1	35	38.2	32
Alabama	32.9	36	29.2	37
Mississippi	30.8	37	29.1	38
Idaho	30.2	38	28.3	40
Kentucky	29.7	39	25.4	45
Michigan	29.0	40	27.1	43
West Virginia	27.9	41	28.9	39
Washington	27.8	42	24.6	47
California	27.3	43	34.9	36
Delaware	27.1	44	25.3	46
North Carolina	25.1	45	27.8	42
Alaska	23.9	46	23.9	48
Minnesota	21.0	47	39.5	30
New Mexico	11.8	48	14.9	49
Vermont	5.6	49	65.2	3
Hawaii	2.4	50	2.0	50

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - November 2006,"; "Rankings of the States 1997"; RIPEC

*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island ranked 3rd in 2004-05

Table 9
% of Public School Revenue from State Govt's
2005-06 & 1995-96

State	2005-06		1995-96	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
U.S. Average*	47.6%	-	48.1%	-
Vermont	86.9	1	29.7	47
Hawaii	86.6	2	90.5	1
Minnesota	71.9	3	56.3	17
New Mexico	69.3	4	74.3	2
North Carolina	63.8	5	64.8	8
Michigan	63.7	6	66.8	5
Alaska	63.5	7	63.6	10
Delaware	62.6	8	67.3	4
Washington	62.3	9	69.5	3
California	61.4	10	56.1	18
Idaho	59.8	11	64.8	8
West Virginia	59.8	11	62.8	11
Kansas	58.9	13	56.5	16
Kentucky	58.1	14	66.4	6
Alabama	55.1	15	61.3	13
Utah	54.1	16	58.4	14
Mississippi	54.1	16	57.1	15
Oklahoma	52.4	18	62.7	12
Wisconsin	51.8	19	42.9	32
Arizona	51.6	20	42.0	34
Arkansas	50.3	21	65.4	7
Indiana	50.3	21	54.3	20
Oregon	49.7	23	55.4	19
Montana	47.5	24	46.9	28
Louisiana	47.2	25	50.9	24
Ohio	46.4	26	41.3	37
Iowa	46.2	27	49.1	26
Wyoming	45.8	28	51.2	23
New York	45.6	29	39.7	39
Tennessee	45.1	30	50.3	25
South Carolina	44.4	31	52.9	21
Colorado	43.3	32	43.8	30
Georgia	42.9	33	51.9	22
Massachusetts	42.9	33	35.5	45
New Hampshire	42.0	35	6.7	50
Maryland	41.1	36	39.3	41
Florida	41.0	37	48.6	27
Maine	40.8	38	46.9	28
Virginia	39.6	39	36.1	44
Connecticut	39.0	40	39.1	42
New Jersey	36.8	41	40.3	38
Rhode Island	36.5	42	41.5	36
Nebraska	36.2	43	37.6	43
Texas	35.6	44	43.6	31
Pennsylvania	34.8	45	41.8	35
North Dakota	34.2	46	42.5	33
Missouri	33.2	47	39.4	40
South Dakota	33.2	47	29.3	48
Illinois	28.1	49	27.3	49
Nevada	27.1	50	31.9	46

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - November 2006,"; "Rankings of the States 1997"; RIPEC

*US average includes District of Columbia

RI ranked 44th in 2004-05

Table 10
% of Public School Revenue from Federal Govt's
2005-06 & 1995-96

State	2005-06		1995-96	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
U.S. Average*	9.1%	-	6.7%	-
New Mexico	18.9	1	10.7	5
South Dakota	17.8	2	10.0	6
North Dakota	15.5	3	11.0	4
Mississippi	15.1	4	13.8	1
Oklahoma	14.4	5	9.2	9
Louisiana	14.3	6	12.3	3
Tennessee	12.7	7	8.7	11
Alaska	12.6	8	12.6	2
West Virginia	12.3	9	8.4	14
Montana	12.2	10	9.6	7
Kentucky	12.2	10	8.2	16
Alabama	12.0	12	9.5	8
Arkansas	11.8	13	8.5	13
Texas	11.4	14	7.7	17
California	11.3	15	9.0	10
North Carolina	11.1	16	7.4	19
Hawaii	11.0	17	7.5	18
Utah	10.6	18	6.4	26
South Carolina	10.4	19	8.3	15
Florida	10.4	19	7.4	19
Delaware	10.3	21	7.4	19
Oregon	10.2	22	6.8	23
Georgia	10.1	23	6.8	23
Idaho	10.0	24	6.9	22
Washington	9.9	25	5.9	30
Wyoming	9.7	26	6.2	27
Maine	9.5	27	6.8	23
Missouri	9.4	28	6.1	28
Nebraska	9.0	29	4.1	48
Pennsylvania	8.7	30	5.6	35
Illinois	8.4	31	5.9	30
Kansas	8.0	32	5.4	36
Arizona	7.9	33	8.7	11
Nevada	7.7	34	4.5	44
Maryland	7.5	35	5.8	33
Vermont	7.5	35	5.1	43
Michigan	7.3	37	6.1	28
Virginia	7.2	38	5.3	37
Indiana	7.1	39	5.2	40
Wisconsin	7.1	39	4.5	44
Minnesota	7.1	39	4.2	47
Colorado	7.0	42	5.3	38
New York	6.9	43	5.8	34
Iowa	6.8	44	5.2	40
Ohio	6.4	45	5.9	30
Connecticut	6.2	46	4.4	46
New Hampshire	6.2	46	3.2	50
Massachusetts	5.6	48	5.3	38
Rhode Island	3.4	49	5.1	42
New Jersey	3.2	50	3.6	49

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - November 2006."; "Rankings of the States 1997"; RIPEC calculations

*US average includes District of Columbia
Rhode Island ranked 49th in 2004-05

Definitions

Current Expenditures – The expenditures for operating local public schools, excluding capital outlay and interest on school debt. These expenditures include such items as salaries for school personnel, fixed charges, student transportation, school books and materials, and energy costs.

Fall Enrollment – The count of the pupils registered in the fall of the school year.

Revenue: Revenue receipts for public school purposes derive from three main sources:

Local – Includes all funds for direct expenditures by local and intermediate districts for school services, for the operation of intermediate departments of education, for employer contributions to retirement systems and/or Social Security on behalf of public school employees, for the purchase of materials for distribution of local school districts, etc.

State – All funds for the operation of the state department of education, for state (employer) contributions to retirement systems and/or Social Security on behalf of school employees, for grants in aid to intermediate and local school districts for school purposes (including funds available from state bond issues for such grants and the costs of textbooks, buses, supplies, etc., purchased by the state for distribution to local school districts), for the payment of interest on state bonds issued to provide grants to local school districts, and all other state revenue for public school purposes.

Federal – Includes money distributed from the Federal treasury either directly to local school districts or through the state and county, including: grants for vocational education; aid to federally affected areas; school lunch and milk programs; educating American Indians in local public schools; and money derived from Federal forest reserves and Federal oil royalties.

Public School Teacher – A staff member assigned the professional activities of instructing pupils in self-contained classes or courses, or in classroom situations.

NOTE - THE ESTIMATES CONTAINED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE DERIVED PRIMARILY FROM THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION'S (NEA) PUBLICATION, "RANKING OF THE STATES 2005 AND ESTIMATES OF SCHOOL STATISTICS 2006" AND "RANKINGS OF THE STATES 1997." NEA ATTEMPTS TO COLLECT DATA FROM STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, HOWEVER NOT ALL STATES RESPOND TO THE NEA. IN THESE INSTANCES, NEA HAS PROVIDED AN ESTIMATE. IN ADDITION, STATES THAT DO RESPOND TO THE NEA MAY NOT REPORT INFORMATION IN A CONSISTENT MANNER. CROSS STATE COMPARISONS SHOULD BE VIEWED CAUTIOUSLY.