

What Would Ellen White Say About Finnish Education?




















































- * Lisa Beardsley-Hardy
- * Director of Education
- * General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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PISA Countries (n=64)

List of all countries and economies that have participated in PISA. Click on a country name for contact, web site, reports and more.

	Albania*		Indonesia*		Panama*
	Argentina*		Ireland		Peru*
	Australia		Israel		Poland
	Austria		Italy		Portugal
	Azerbaijan*		Japan		Qatar*
	Belgium		Jordan*		Romania*
	Brazil*		Kazakhstan*		Russian Federation
	Bulgaria*		Korea		Republic of Serbia*
	Canada		Kyrgyz Republic*		Shanghai (China)*
	Chile		Latvia*		Singapore*
	Colombia*		Liechtenstein*		Slovak Republic
	Costa Rica* (2010)		Lithuania*		Slovenia
	Croatia*		Luxembourg		Spain
	Czech Republic		Macao-China*		Sweden
	Denmark		Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		Switzerland
	Dubai		Malaysia* (2010)		Chinese Taipei*
	Estonia		Montenegro*		Thailand*

PISA Countries (n=62)

 [Estonia](#)

 [Latvia \(LVU\)](#)

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OECD non-members are marked with an asterisk (*).

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PISA: Finnish Youth at the Forefront

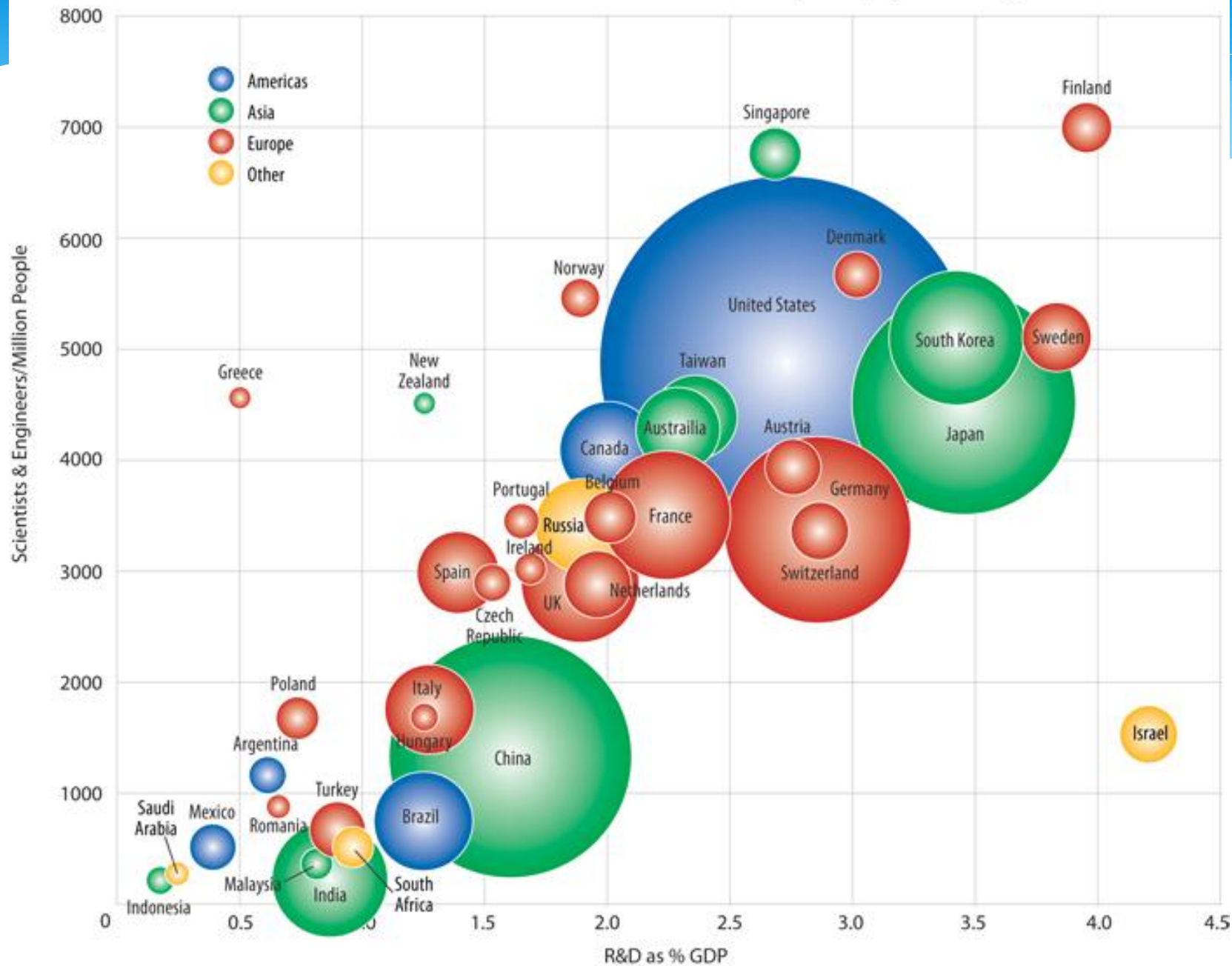
Finland's Rank	2012	2009	2006	2003	2000
READING					
OECD countries	3	2	2	1	1
all participants	6	3	2	1	1
MATH					
OECD countries	6	2	1	1	4
all participants	12	6	2	2	4

PISA: Finnish Youth at the Forefront

Finland's Rank	2012	2009	2006	2003	2000
SCIENTIFIC					
OECD countries	2	1	1	1	3
all participants	5	2	1	1	3
PROBLEM SOLVING					
OECD countries				2	
all participants				2	

World of R&D 2011

Size of circle reflects the relative amount of annual R&D spending by the country noted.



Source: Battelle, R&D Magazine, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, CIA World Factbook, OECD

Best Country in World Overall: Finland (NEWSWEEK, 2010)



BEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD



MORE GALLERIES

EMAIL

336

1k

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44

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10

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all: Finland

: best small country, best
education)

nter, Finland is a pretty great
st, actually. It ranked the
also comes in as the best
est high-income country, and
education. Its students
ce and second in both
n the 2006 (the most recent
are available) Program for
nt Assessment, a test of 15-

UNICEF Child Well Being Report 11

Netherlands and four Nordic countries – Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden rank highest out of 29 rich countries, according to five dimensions of children's lives – material well-being, health and safety, education, behaviour and risks, and housing and environment.



Principles of Finnish Education

- * Free, equal education for all (between 11 and 12 percent of the Finnish state and municipal budget is spent on education).
- * Readiness of students: play and nurture prepare children for school. Start school the autumn of calendar year a child turns 7 years old. This gives them a longer time to play, use their imagination and develop secure attachment.
- * Qualified teachers
 - * Primary (1-6) teach all subjects and hold a master's degree in education with pedagogy emphasis
 - * Secondary teachers hold a master's degree in respective fields plus studies in educational science

Principles of Finnish Education (cont.)

- * Standardized educational objectives and National Matriculation Examinations Board, but teachers select methods of instruction
- * Hot free lunch is a component of the official curriculum and a lesson in health and nutrition. Some schools offer climate-friendly, vegetarian and organic lunches.
- * Support for balanced growth and development.

Balanced Growth & Development



- * Shorter school days compared to most OECD countries (8:30-3:30).
- * Recess outside, rain or shine.
- * Special support as needed.
- * Artistic subjects.
- * Free health and dental care until age 18

Free, equal education for all



“All our youth should be permitted to have the blessings and privileges of an education at our schools, that they may be inspired to become laborers together with God. They all need an education, that they may be fitted for usefulness, qualified for places of responsibility in both private and public life.”
(CG 332.1)

Photo: Ministry of Education & Culture/Liisa Takala

Readiness of students



Photo: Amanda Soila

“Do not send your little ones away to school too early. The mother should be careful how she trusts the molding of the infant mind to others’ hands. Parents ought to be the best teachers of their children until they have reached eight or ten years of age. Their school room should be the open air, amid the flowers and birds, and their textbook the treasure of nature.”
(CCh 208.3)

Qualified teachers



Photo: Amanda Soila

“Our church schools need teachers who have high moral qualities; those who can be trusted; those who are sound in the faith...” (CCh 207.1)

“Only devout and consecrated men and women, who love children and can see in them souls to be saved for the Master, should be chosen as church school teachers. “Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 166 (1913). (DG 85.3)

Qualified teachers



Photo: Amanda Soila

“Teachers are to do more for their students than to impart a knowledge of books. Their position as guide and instructor of the youth is most responsible, for to them is given the work of molding mind and character. Those who undertake this work should possess well-balanced, symmetrical characters. They should be refined in manner, neat in dress, careful in all their habits; and they should have that true Christian courtesy that wins confidence and respect. The teacher should be himself what he wishes his students to become.” (DG 87.3)

Standardized educational objectives but teachers determine methods



“The principles and habits of the teacher should be considered of greater importance than even his literary qualifications. If the teacher is a sincere Christian, he will feel the necessity of having an equal interest in the physical, mental, moral, and spiritual education of his scholars. In order to exert the right influence, he should have perfect control over himself, and his own heart should be richly imbued with love for his pupils, which will be seen in his looks, words, and acts. He should have firmness of character, then he can mold the minds of his pupils, as well as to instruct them in the sciences”. (DG 86.4)

Free hot lunch--part of curriculum



Photo: Amanda Soila

“Many students are deplorably ignorant of the fact that diet exerts a powerful influence upon the health. Some have never made a determined effort to control the appetite, or to observe proper rules in regard to diet. They eat too much, even at their meals, and some eat between meals whenever the temptation is presented. If those who profess to be Christians desire to solve the questions so perplexing to them, why their minds are so dull, why their religious aspirations are so feeble, they need not, in many instances, go farther than the table; here is cause enough, if there were no other.” (CE 184.1)

Balanced Growth & Development



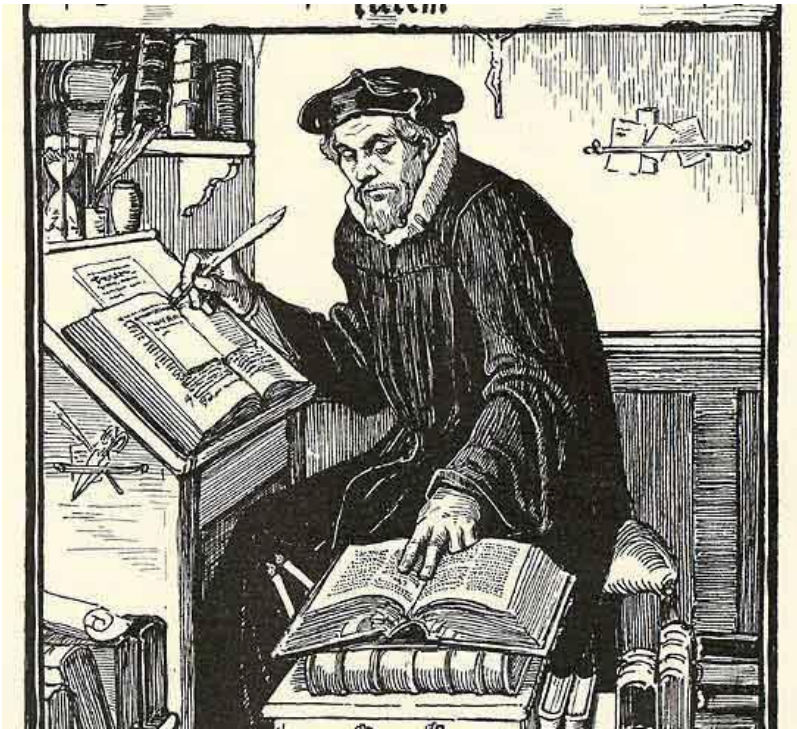
Photo: Amanda Soila

“Students should not be permitted to take so many studies that they will have no time for physical training. The health cannot be preserved unless some portion of each day is given to muscular exertion in the open air. Stated hours should be devoted to manual labor of some kind, anything which will call into action all parts of the body. Equalize the taxation of the mental and physical powers, and the mind of the student will be refreshed. If he is diseased, physical exercise will often help the system to recover its normal condition. When students leave college, they should have better health and a better understanding of the laws of life than when they entered it. The health should be as sacredly guarded as the character”. CE 183.4)

Parting Point



Mikael Agricola: Father of Finnish literacy



- * 1543 ABC primer & catechism
- * 1544 Rucouskiria (900-p. prayer book)
- * 1548 Se Wsi Testamenti (718 p. NT)
- * 1549 Käsikirja Castesta and two other translated liturgical books/church manuals

Created in the Image of God

- * Physically
 - * Mentally
 - * Spiritually
-
- * Capable of continuous growth to “more fully” reflect “the glory of the Creator.”

As a Consequence of the Fall

The divine image is “well-nigh obliterated”

Physical powers weakened

Mental capacity lessened

Spiritual vision dimmed

Human Problem of Sin is Center of Educational Enterprise

“To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the objective of education, the great object of life.”

Ellen G. White, *Education*, 15-16.

Connecting Students to Christ

“... the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, ‘other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus.’ . . . In entering into that relation with Christ which will make them a controlling power in the life should be the teacher’s first effort and his constant aim.” Ellen G. White, *Education*, 14-15.

Godliness-Godlikeness

“... higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children. Godliness--godlikeness--is the goal to be reached.”

-- Ellen G. White, *Education*, 18.

Moral Power Trumps Numbers

“If you lower the standard in order to secure popularity and an increase of numbers, and then make this increase a cause of rejoicing, you show great blindness. If numbers were an evidence of success, Satan might claim the pre-eminence; for, in this world, his followers are largely in the majority. It is the degree of moral power pervading the college, that is a test of its prosperity. It is the virtue, intelligence, and piety of the people composing our churches, not their numbers, that should be a source of joy and thankfulness.” (CT 94)

Worthwhile Education

“Without the influence of divine grace, education will prove no real advantage; the learner becomes proud, vain and bigoted. But that education which is received under the ennobling refining influence of the Great Teacher will elevate man in the scale of moral value with God.” (CT 94)

Word of God in Foreground

“Principal and teachers should have a living connection with God and should stand firmly and fearlessly as witnesses for Him. Never from cowardice of worldly policy let the word of God be placed in the background. Students will be profited intellectually, as well as morally and spiritually, by its study. . . .” (CT 89)



By Janaka Dharmasena, Stock Photo

Need for Thorough Biblical Literacy

“Very well, then let them go to other colleges, where they will find a system of education that suits their taste. Our school was established, not merely to teach the sciences, but for the purpose of giving instruction in the great principles of God’s word and in the practical duties of everyday life. This is the education so much needed at the present time.” (CT 88)

Benefits of Bible Study

“There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the Word of God.” “One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man's ideas or arguments.” “As a means of intellectual training, the Bible is more effective than any other book, or all other books combined. . . . No other study can impart such mental power as does the effort to grasp the stupendous truths of revelation.” (CT 460; 7T 71)

Bible Center of All Curricula

- * 1891- The Harbor Springs (Michigan) Teachers' Institute meets. This is the first convention for all North American teachers.
- * Its approximately 100 attendees initiate the first reforms in Adventist education, advocating that the Bible be the center of all curricula.

GC Recommends Bible Study

- * In 1893, twenty-one years after Ellen White's seminal essay "Proper Education," the General Conference session adopted a recommendation for four years of Bible study for students in Adventist colleges.

One Bible Course a Year

- * From 1893 onwards, Adventist undergraduate degrees, regardless of major, typically include at least one course a year (3 semester or 4 quarter units) for a total of a minimum of 12 semester (16 quarter credits) for a bachelor's degree.
- * Adventist Accrediting Association now requires the equivalent of one Bible course per year of study, taught by faculty with qualifications in religion/theology.



PHYSICAL

MENTAL

SPIRITUAL

HOLY BIBLE

GOLDEN

GOLDEN





UNIVERSIDAD ADVENTISTA DE CENTRO AMERICA

1987

CUERPO

MENTE

ALMA

Core Features

- Redemptive purpose
- Balanced, wholistic development
- Centrality of the Bible in all disciplines
- Restoring the image of God in students
- Developing the ability to think and do
 - not merely reflect others' thoughts

Practical skills for life; manual labor

- Preparing for service in this life and the next—
for the whole period of existence

Finland: Best Country Overall

(Honorable mention: best small country, best high-income, best education) Despite the long winter, Finland is a pretty great place to be—the best, actually. It ranked the highest overall and also comes in as the best small country, the best high-income country, and the best country for education ... all teachers have master's degrees, and extra help [for students] is the norm...”

Final Grade for Finnish Education?

“It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world” *Education*, 13.

Image courtesy of stockimages



Final Grade for Finnish Education?

“... and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.”
Education, 13.

Image courtesy of stockimages



The Plan Which God Has Specified

“If a worldly influence is to bear sway in our school, then sell it out to worldlings and let them take the entire control; and those who have invested their means in that institution will establish another school, to be conducted, not upon the plan of popular schools, nor according to the desires of principal and teachers, but upon the plan which God has specified.” (5T 21, 2, 25, 26).

[Written in 1881. Battle Creek College closed in 1882.]

SDA Education World Statistics

December 31, 2011

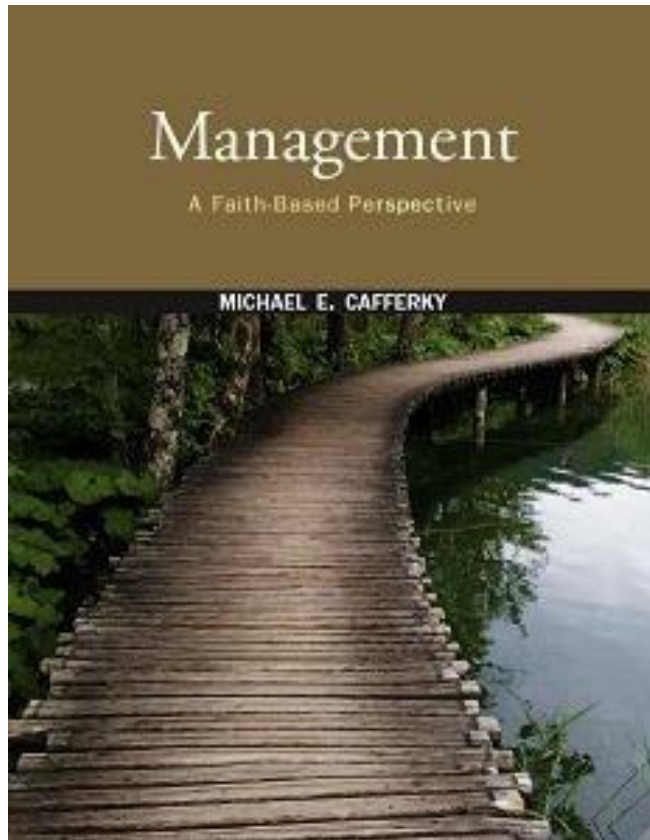
Level	Schools	Teachers	Students
Elementary	5,815	44,697	1,092,090
Secondary	1,908	32,481	521,041
Training Schools	48	669	8,624
Colleges & Universities	112	11,634	136,982
Totals	7,883	89,481	1,758,737

Challenge

Integrate biblical worldview and the Bible at all levels and disciplines.

Integrate and express apocalyptic message throughout the school.

College Textbooks



- * Biblical worldview
- * Values
- * Role models
- * Examples and application
- * Reflection
- * Group exercises (cooperative learning)
- * Scripture
- * Ethics
- * Case studies

thisisFINLAND

Life & society

School in Finland

The key to the nation's success

By Salla Korpela

Published May 2012

Photo: Lehtikuva



Thumbs up for education: This Finnish language and literature textbook is named after famous author Aleksis Kivi (1834–1872).

A great deal of international attention has been attracted by the repeated success of Finnish 15-year-old pupils and their level of ability as measured in the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) studies organised by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development).

Free, equal education for all →

One of the Finnish education system's major strengths is its ability to guarantee the same educational opportunities for everyone, regardless of social or economic background. Instead of competition and comparison, comprehensive school focuses on support and guidance for the students as individuals.

Photo: Ministry of
Education and
Culture/L. Takala

Finnish Education References

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Finnish National Board of Education

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- * White, E.G. **MM**, 69-71.
- * Greenleaf, F. (2005). **In passion for the world: a history of Seventh-day Adventist education**. Pacific Press, 24-52.