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ABOUT THE TEXAS HISPANIC POLICY FOUNDATION

The Texas Hispanic Policy Foundation operates as a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated and committed to analyzing and exploring the political, economic, social, demographic, and familial attitudes, and behaviors of Texas Hispanics. In collaboration with Rice University and the Baker Institute for Public Policy, the Foundation conducts surveys, polls, research, data collection and analysis concerning the Hispanic population in Texas. You can find more information about the Foundation at www.txhpf.org.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November a survey was conducted among parents and guardians with one or more children (ages 5-17) who live within the boundaries of the Dallas Independent School District (DISD). The ethnic/racial self-identification of the parents who responded is: Hispanic (50%), white (25%), Black (22%) and others (3%). Among the Hispanic parents, 60% prefer to interact in Spanish over English. More than one-third (36%) of the Hispanic parents are immigrants and 27% are first generation.

More than one-half (55%) of the parents have a child that receives a free or reduced cost lunch as part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). And, 76% have children who attend a DISD school, and 11% children who attend a charter school.

Nine out of 10 parents (87%) have high-speed internet in their home. White parents (96%) are more likely to have high-speed internet than Black (87%) and Hispanic (81%) parents. The top reason given by the 13% for why they do not have high-speed internet service at home is that the monthly cost is too expensive (listed by 71% of parents). Among parents with a child participating in the NSLP, 83% have high-speed internet at home, compared to 93% of those who do not participate.

In neighborhoods where high-speed internet is available, 99% of white parents have it in their home compared to 95% and 89% of Black and Hispanic parents.

Parents were asked if they knew about low cost high-speed internet plans provided by AT&T and Spectrum and of the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. Only 28%, 25% and 20% are aware of these three respective programs. While 28%, 25% and 20% of Hispanics are aware of the AT&T, Spectrum and FCC programs, there exists a significant language-based difference among Hispanics. Among those who prefer to interact in English, the percentage aware of these three programs is 36%, 31% and 27%, while a significantly lower proportion of those who prefer to interact in Spanish are aware of these three programs (21%, 21% and 15%). These findings underscore the need for more robust outreach campaigns (especially in Spanish) to educate parents of the existence of these low cost programs and benefits.

Among the 13% of parents who do not have broadband service at home, having knowledge of these low cost options resulted in more than three-fifths (63%) indicating they would now be likely to sign up for high-speed internet.

Overall, 72% of parents trust a private company provider more or equally to provide them with reliable broadband internet service compared to 47% who trust a local government provider more or equally to provide them with this service.

Almost three-fifths of parents (59%) believe the construction and maintenance of a DISD high-speed internet network would cause property taxes to go up compared to 5% of parents who believe it would cause property taxes to go down.

In order to better understand issues surrounding access and use of high-speed internet at the home of parents or guardians of children between the ages of 5 and 17 residing within the boundaries of the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), a mixed mode public opinion survey was conducted during late October and November 2021 (for details on the methodology, see the Methodology section).

SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

All of the respondents are the parent or guardian of at least one child between the ages of 5 and 17 and live within the DISD boundaries. The median parent has two children between the ages of 5 and 17 in their household.

The ethnic/racial self-identification of the parents is: Hispanic (50%), white (25%), Black (22%), Asian American (1%) and Other (2%); not including the 5% of the respondents who did not wish to specify an ethnic/racial self-identification. More than two-thirds (70%) of the parents are women and 30% are men.

Among the Hispanic parents, 60% preferred to respond to the survey in Spanish and 40% preferred to respond in English. More than one-third (36%) of the Hispanic parents are immigrants, 27% are first generation Americans, 14% are second generation Americans, and 23% are third generation Americans or beyond.

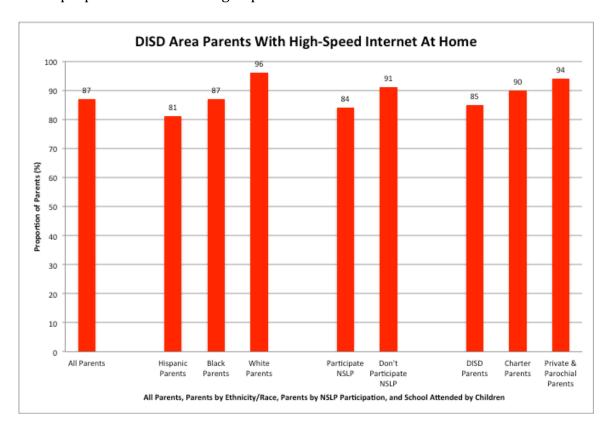
More than one-half (55%) of the parents currently have a child that receives a reduced cost or free lunch as part of the National School Lunch Program (NLSP). One quarter (25%) of the parents participate in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

An overwhelming majority (76%) of the parents have one or more children enrolled in a DISD school while another 11% have one or more children enrolled in a local charter school. Parents with one or more children in a private or parochial school account for 16% of the population, while 3% of parents have one or more child who is home schooled, and 3% have one or more child between the ages of 5 and 17 who is not attending school of any type.

Four out of five Hispanic (80%) and Black (81%) parents have a child attending a DISD school compared to 72% of white parents. However, among Hispanics, parents whose language of preference is Spanish (86%) are notably more likely to have a child enrolled at a DISD school than are Hispanics whose language of preference is English (72%). Hispanics in this latter group are notably more likely to have children enrolled at private or parochial schools (20%) than are Hispanics whose language of preference is Spanish (4%), with similar proportions from both groups having a child who attends a charter school (13% and 10% respectively).

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET AT HOME

Almost nine out of 10 parents (87%) have high-speed internet in their home compared to 13% who do not. White parents (96%) are significantly more likely to have high-speed internet in their home than Black (87%) and, especially, Hispanic (81%) parents. There do not exist any noteworthy differences between Hispanic parents who answered the survey in Spanish (82%) and in English (79%) in terms of the proportion who have high-speed internet in their home.



Among parents with a child that participates in the NSLP, 84% have high-speed internet at home while 16% do not. This compares to the 91% of those who do not have a child who participate in the NSLP who have high-speed internet at home and the 9% who do not. This finding highlights a notable inverse relationship between income and broadband access at home.

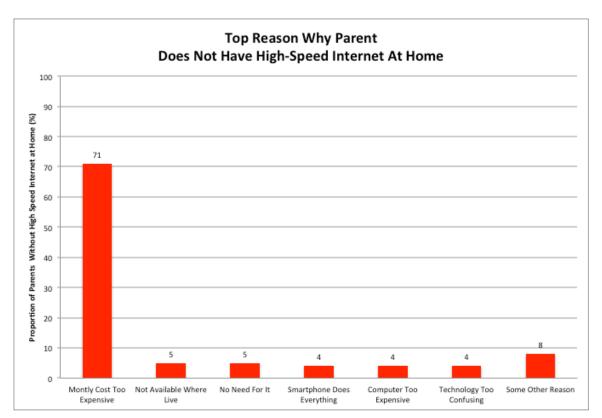
Among parents with one or more children who attend a DISD school, 85% have high-speed internet in their home while 15% do not. Among parents with one or more children who attend a charter school, 90% have high-speed internet in their home while 10% do not. Among parents with one or more children who attend a private or parochial school 94% have high-speed internet at home while 6% do not.

More than nine out of ten parents (91%) indicate that high-speed internet is available in their neighborhood, while 4% say it is not available and 5% indicate that they do not know whether or not it is available where they live.

Among those white parents who live in neighborhood where high-speed internet is available, 99% have high-speed internet in their home while 1% do not. Among Black parents who live in a neighborhood where high-speed internet is available, 95% have high-speed internet in their home while 5% do not. Among Hispanic parents who live in a neighborhood where high-speed internet is available, 89% have high-speed internet in their home while 11% do not.

The 13% of parents who indicated that they do not have high-speed internet in their home were asked what the most important, second most important and third most important reasons are for why they did not have high-speed internet at home. The randomized response options were: the monthly cost is too expensive, your smartphone does everything you need to do, it isn't available where you live, the cost of a computer is too expensive, the technology needed to use it is too confusing, you don't know how to sign up for it, you have no need for it, and some other reason.

Far and away the top reason given by the parents for why they do not have high-speed internet service at home is that the monthly cost is too expensive (71%), followed at a considerable distance by it not being available where the parent lives (5%), the parent has no need for it (5%), their smartphone does everything they need to do (4%), the cost of a computer is too expensive (4%), the technology is too confusing (4%) and some other reason (8%).

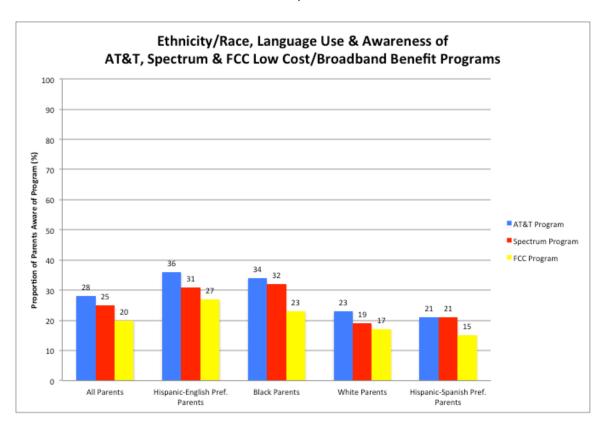


Among the reasons mentioned by the parents who do not have high-speed internet at home as being among their top three for not having high-speed internet, the most common is the monthly cost is too expensive, which 85% of parents mentioned as one of the three most important reasons why they do not have high-speed internet at home. This was followed in popularity by the cost of a computer being too expensive (62%), their smartphone doing everything they need to do (26%), they don't know how to sign up for it (24%), the technology is too confusing (22%), it isn't available where they live (12%), they have no need for it (12%) and some other reason (57%).

AWARENESS OF LOW COST BROADBAND OPTIONS & FEDERAL BENEFITS

In the survey respondents were asked if they knew about separate low cost highspeed internet service plans provided by AT&T and by Spectrum for qualifying families and if they were aware of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Emergency Broadband Benefit Program that provides \$50 a month towards highspeed internet service for qualifying families.

By and large these parents did not know about the AT&T or the Spectrum low cost programs or about the FCC broadband benefit program. Only 28% were aware of the AT&T low cost program while 72% were not aware of it. Only 25% were aware of the Spectrum low cost program while 75% were not aware of it. And, only 20% were aware of the FCC broadband benefit, while 80% were not aware of it.



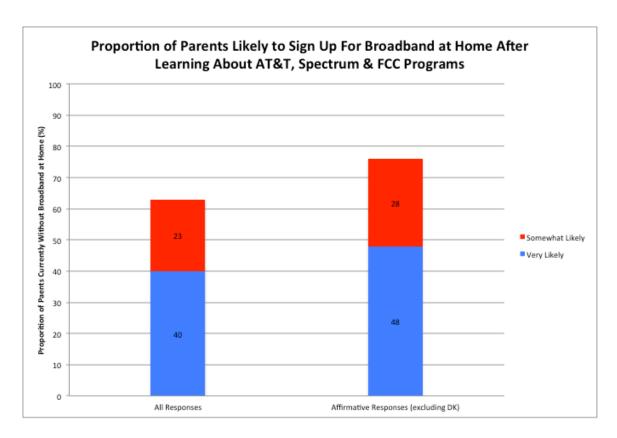
Overall, 34% of Black parents, 28% of Hispanic parents and 23% of white parents were aware of the AT&T low cost program. This compares to 32% of Blacks, 25% of Hispanics and 19% of whites aware of the Spectrum low cost program and 23% of Blacks, 20% of Hispanics and 17% of whites aware of the FCC broadband benefit.

While 28%, 25% and 20% of Hispanics were aware of the AT&T, Spectrum and FCC programs respectively, there exists a significant difference among Hispanics depending on whether or not their preferred language of interaction is English or Spanish. Among those who prefer to interact in English, the percentage aware of these three respective programs is 36%, 31% and 27% respectively, while a significantly lower proportion of Hispanics who prefer to interact in Spanish were aware of these three programs, 21%, 21% and 15% respectively. In contrast, there were no noteworthy differences among Hispanics based on their immigration generation. For instance 30%, 27% and 20% of parents who are immigrants were aware of the AT&T, Spectrum and FCC programs respectively, percentages little different from those of second generation and beyond parents, 26%, 29% and 23% of whom were aware of these three respective programs.

Among those parents with a child who participates in the NSLP, 29%, 27% and 22% were aware of the AT&T, Spectrum and FCC programs compared to 26%, 23% and 18% of those parents who do not have a child in the NSLP. While lower income parents were slightly more likely to be aware of these programs than higher income parents, the differences are not significant.

Only slightly more DISD parents (29%, 26% and 22%) were aware of the AT&T, Spectrum and FCC programs than parents who do not have a child attending a DISD school (23%, 23% and 14%).

After the respondents were queried about their awareness of the AT&T and Spectrum low cost programs and the FCC broadband benefit, the 13% who had indicated they did not have high-speed broadband in their home were asked that knowing now about the low cost options and federal benefits for obtaining high-speed internet service, how likely would they be to sign up for this service in the near future. Two-fifths responded that with this new knowledge they would now be very likely (40%) to sign up for home high-speed internet service and 23% said they would be somewhat likely to sign up, while 7% and 13% reported they respectively would be somewhat unlikely and very unlikely to sign up for high-speed internet at home, with 17% indicating they did not know what they would do. That is, having knowledge of these low cost options resulted in more than three-fifths (63%) of the parents indicating they would now be likely to sign up for high-speed internet at home, a proportion that rises to above three-fourths (76%) if the don't know responses are excluded.

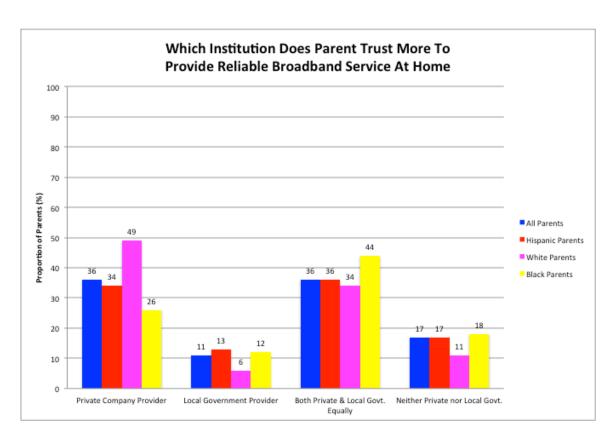


Overall these findings highlight the need for AT&T, Spectrum and the FCC to engage in a much more expansive public outreach campaigns to educate DISD area parents about the existence of these low cost programs and benefits. And, the findings also underscore the need for an especially robust campaign conducted in Spanish.

TRUST IN POTENTIAL HIGH-SPEED INTERNET PROVIDERS

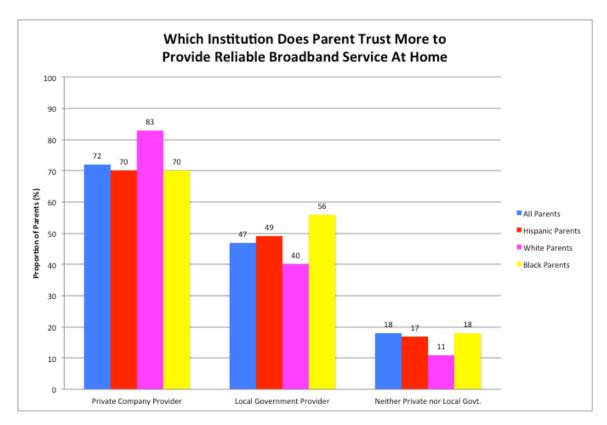
In the survey the parents were asked who would they trust more to provide them with reliable high-speed broadband internet service at home: a local government provider, a private company provider, both equally, or neither. Significantly more parents indicate that they would trust a private company provider (36%) than would trust a local government provider (11%) to provide them with reliable high-speed broadband internet service at home. Another 36% indicated that they would trust both a private company provider and a local government provider equally to provide them with high-speed broadband internet service while 17% of parents indicated that they would not trust either a private company or a local government to provide them with reliable broadband service at home.

Overall, 72% of parents trust a private company provider more (36%) or equally (36%) to provide them with reliable broadband service compared to 47% who trust a local government provider more (11%) or equally (36%) to provide them with reliable broadband service.



White parents are most likely (49%) to trust a private company provider to provide them with reliable home high-speed internet service and least likely to trust a local government provider (6%). Hispanic (34%) and Black (26%) parents are less likely than white parents to trust a private company provider to provide them with reliable home high-speed internet service and more likely to trust a local government provider (13% and 12% respectively), although more than twice as many Hispanics and Blacks still trust a private company to provide them with reliable broadband service than trust a local government.

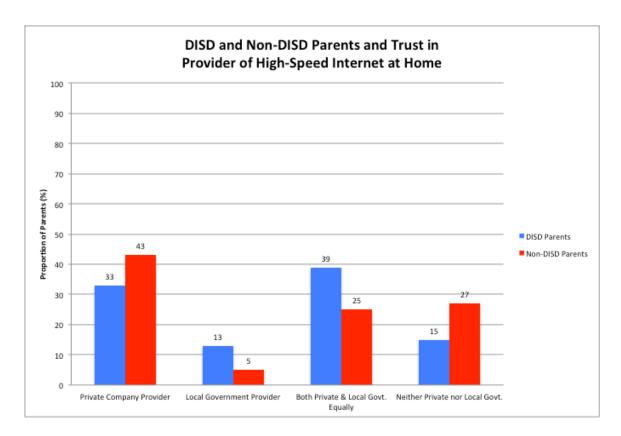
Overall 83% of whites, 70% of Hispanics and 70% of Blacks trust a private company provider more or equally (with a local government provider) to provide them with reliable broadband service compared to 40%, 49% and 56% of whites, Hispanics and Blacks who trust a local government provider more or equally (with a private company provider) to provide them with reliable high-speed internet service.



Among parents with a child enrolled in the NSLP, 31% trust a private company provider more to provide them with high-speed broadband service while 14% trust a local government provider more. A majority of the remaining parents (43%) trust both equally, while 12% trust neither.

Among parents without children enrolled in the NSLP, 41% trust a private company provider more to provide them with high-speed broadband service while 7% trust a local government provider more. The remainder are split between those who trust both equally (28%) and those who do not trust either (24%).

Finally, among parents with a child enrolled in a DISD school, 33% trust a private company provider more to provide them with reliable high-speed internet service at home while 13% trust a local government provider more, with 39% trusting both equally and 15% trusting neither.

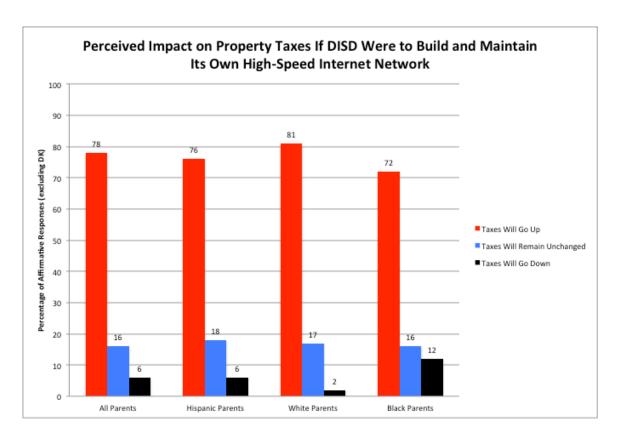


Among the parents who do not have a child enrolled in a DISD school, 43% trust a private company provider more to provide them with reliable high-speed internet service at home while 5% trust a local government provider more, with 25% trusting both equally and 27% trusting neither.

CONSTRUCTION OF A DISD HIGH-SPEED NETWORK & PROPERTY TAXES

In the survey the parents were asked to provide their opinion on what they believe the impact on property taxes would be if DISD were to build and maintain its own high-speed internet network. The rotated response options were that property taxes would go up, go down, or remain unchanged. Respondents could also answer that they did not know,

Almost three-fifths of the parents (59%) believe that the construction and maintenance of a DISD high-speed internet network would cause property taxes to go up compared to only 5% who believe it would cause them to go down. One in ten (12%) parents believe property taxes would remain unchanged while 24% said they did not know. Excluding the don't know responses, 78% of the parents believe the construction and maintenance of a DISD high-speed internet network would cause property taxes to go up compared to 6% who believe it would cause property taxes to go down and 16% who believe property taxes would remain unchanged.



Among Hispanic parents, 57% believe the construction and maintenance of a DISD high-speed internet network would cause property taxes to go up, a proportion that rises to 76% if the don't know responses are excluded. In contrast, only 5% of Hispanic parents believe it would cause property taxes to go down, a proportion that rises slightly to 6% if the don't know responses (25%) are excluded. Finally, 13% and 18% (don't know responses excluded) of Hispanic parents believe that property taxes would remain unchanged as a result of DISD building and then maintaining its own high-speed internet network.

Among white parents 65% believe the construction and maintenance of a DISD high-speed internet network would cause property taxes to go up, a proportion that rises to 81% if the don't know responses (20%) are excluded. In contrast, only 2% of white parents believe it would cause property taxes to go down, a proportion that remains at 2% if the don't know responses are excluded. Finally, 14% and 17% (don't know responses excluded) of white parents believe that property taxes would remain unchanged as a result of DISD building and then maintaining its own high-speed internet network.

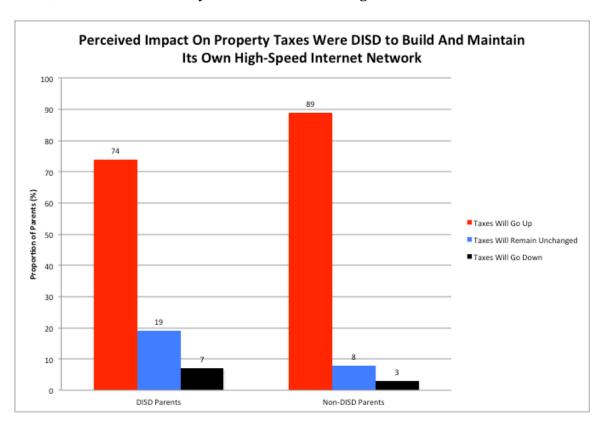
Among Black parents 48% believe the construction and maintenance of a DISD high-speed internet network would cause property taxes to go up, a proportion that rises to 72% if the don't know responses (33%) are excluded. In contrast, only 8% of Black parents believe it would cause property taxes to go down, a proportion that rises to 12% if the don't know responses are excluded. Finally, 11% and 16% (don't know responses excluded) of Black parents believe that property taxes would

remain unchanged as a result of DISD building and then maintaining its own highspeed internet network.

Among parents with a child enrolled in the NSLP, 53% believe the construction and maintenance of a DISD high-speed internet network would cause property taxes to go up while 7% believe it would cause them to go down and 12% believe that taxes would remain unchanged (28% did not know). Excluding the don't know responses, 73% believe taxes would go up, 10% believe taxes would go down, and 17% believe taxes would remain unchanged.

Among parents without a child enrolled in the NSLP, 66% believe the construction and maintenance of a DISD high-speed internet network would cause property taxes to go up while 2% believe it would cause them to go down and 12% believe that taxes would remain unchanged (20% did not know). Excluding the don't know responses, 83% believe taxes would go up, 2% believe taxes would go down, and 15% believe taxes would remain unchanged.

Among those parents with a child attending a DISD school, 54% believe that the building of a DISD high-speed internet network would cause property taxes to go up compared to 5% who believe it would cause them to go down and 14% who believe taxes would remain unchanged (27% did not know). Excluding the don't know responses, 74% believe property taxes would go up, 7% believe they would go down, and 19% believe they would remain unchanged.



Among those parents without a child attending a DISD school, 75% believe that the building of a DISD internet network would cause property taxes to go up compared to 3% who believe it would cause them to go down and 6% who believe taxes would remain unchanged (16% did not know). Excluding the don't know responses, 89% believe property taxes would go up, 3% believe they would go down, and 8% believe property taxes would remain unchanged.

METHODOLOGY

The fielding period of this study was from October 20, 2021 through November 30, 2021. A total of 460 surveys were administered by ReconMR of San Marcos, Texas, of which 66 surveys were conducted over the telephone using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software. Three hundred ninety-four surveys were conducted online via utilizing Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI). The CAWI respondents were either sent a text message invitation that included a unique link to the online survey for that individual, or upon being reached by telephone, requested a link be emailed or texted to them.