



March 31, 2025

School Board Authority During Emergencies

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: CTAS-2476

During an emergency, as defined in T.C.A. § 58-2-101, local boards of education and governing bodies of a public charter school may consult with state and local health departments when determining whether to open or close in-person instruction. Notwithstanding an executive order issued by the governor or order issued by a health board or public health official, a local board of education or governing body of a public charter school has sole authority to open or close in-person instruction during an emergency. A local board of education or governing body of a public charter school may delegate the authority to the director of schools or administration of the public charter school. If the governor issues an executive order during an emergency with statewide applicability that requires schools to be open for in-person instruction, the executive order supersedes local authority. See Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 2, and Title 49, Chapter 13 of the Tennessee Code Annotated.

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