



March 31, 2025

School Property

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-89

The board of education is empowered to exercise the right of eminent domain for public school purposes. T.C.A. § 49-6-2001. The board has the power to purchase land and to erect and equip buildings for public schools, and the board holds Title to property so acquired. The board has the power to dispose of real property to which it has Title in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-2006. Personal property that has become surplus is required to be sold by the board in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-2007. The board is permitted to transfer surplus real or personal property to the county or to any municipality within the county for public use, without the requirement of competitive bidding or sale. T.C.A. §§ 49-6-2006 and -2007. The board of education is not authorized to donate surplus real or personal property to charitable or nonprofit organizations; the board may, however, sell or lease surplus property to such organizations. T.C.A. §§ 49-2-203(b)(10), 49-6-2006, 49-6-2007; Op. Tenn. Att'y Gen. 96-046 (March 14, 1996).

Any local education agency (LEA) having underutilized and vacant properties must make those properties available for use by charter schools operating in the LEA. In any LEA in which a charter school operates, the school board must catalog all underutilized and vacant properties owned or operated by the LEA and submit a listing of all such properties to the department of education and the comptroller annually, and this list will be made available to any charter school operating in the LEA or to any sponsor seeking to establish a charter school in the LEA. T.C.A. § 49-13-136.

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