# Florence was founded as a town in 1818. Florence City Schools, as an official school district, began in 1890. However, in the intervening years between 1818 and 1890, the citizens of Florence found ways to educate their children. Here is a brief history of education in those years:

1. 1820 - Coffee Family Plantation (near the intersection of today’s Cox Creek Parkway and Cloverdale Road) - James Lorance, Teacher
2. 1825 - South Cedar Street - Rev. Wall ( Episcopal minister), Teacher
3. 1830 - Instersection of Seminary and Tennessee Streets - Prof. Tinnon, Teacher
4. 1833 - Log cabin on South Pine Street (near the present City Hall auditorium) - Prof. Oliver, Teacher

1833 - Locust Dell Academy (site of Willingham Hall on UNA campus) - Caroline and Nicholas Hentz, Teachers

1. 1835 - Prepdom/Florence Male Academy, West Tombigbee Street
2. 1837 - Intersection of Pine Street/West Mobile Street - Miss James from Philadelphia, Teacher

1837 - Northeast corner of Wilson Park - Mrs. Henderson from Scotland, Teacher

1. 1847 - Small brick building on lot dedicated by Cypress Land Company (future home of Patton School), College Street between Cherry and Chestnut Streets
2. 1861 - Sixth Ward School (Later, Brandon School) - East of the present Brandon Ministries Center building site
3. 1866 - Freedman’s Public School (for African American children), Church Springs M.E. Church (later, St. Paul AME Church) - Oscar Waring, Teacher
4. 1868 - High school opened in Weleyan Hall on UNA campus (lasted 5 years ) - Prof. W.D. Willis, Organizer
5. 1870 - Pine Street - Ann Stevens from Ireland, Teacher
6. 1871 - North end of Court Streer - Miss Mattie Ray, Teacher
7. 1872 - Home on North Wood Avenue (later the home of J.J. Mitchell) - Mrs. Susan Leigh (matron of Female Synodical College), Teacher
8. 1890- City Hall building (now a parking lot on Sixth Court Street) - Florence Institute (boys only), Prof. Alex S. Paxton, Teacher
9. C.1903 - John F. Slater Elementary School (elementary, African-American students; funded by the City of Florence), Court Street
10. 1904 - Burrell Normal School (Funded by the American Missionary Association for grades 1-12), West College Street

## In 1890, Florence City Schools began, with Prof. J.W. Morgan as the first Superintendent

1. 1891 - October opening of Patton School (named for Gov. Robert M. Patton who owned the Sweetwater Plantation) - College Street between Cherry and Chestnut Streets

1891 - Fifth Ward School/Seven Points School - T.J. Bond, Teacher

1891 - Sixth Ward School (East Florence) - T.B. Scruggs, Teacher

1891 - Colored Public Free School (Court Street) - Young A. Wallace - Principal

1. 1899 - Brandon Elementary School (named for industrialist Charles M. Brandon)
2. 1914 - Florence High School, North Pine Street just north of West Tuscaloosa Street intersection
3. 1917 - Coffee High School (named for Captain Alexander Donelson Coffee and wife, Camilla Madding Coffee) - Jackson Highway (now Hermitage Drive)
4. 1921 - “Red Building” (a two-room frame structure) moved from Patton School to Coffee High School

1921 - Gilbert Elementary School (named for former superintendent H.C. Gilbert)

C.1921 - Pine Ridge School ( elementary African-American students), intersection of Veterans drive and Kirkman Street

1. 1936 - Florence Junior High School (formerly Burrell Normal) becomes part of Florence City Schools
2. 1937 - Burrell High School (formerly Burrell Normal) becomes part of Florence City Schools
3. 1947 - Second gymnasium added to Coffee High School campus
4. 1951 - New location of Coffee High School, North Cherry Street

1951 - Former Coffee High School building renamed F.T. Appleby School in honor of former superintendent

1951 -Weeden Elementary School (named for John D. Weeden, owner of adjacent Sweetwater Plantation), North Franklin Street (present location of Broadway Recreation Center) annexed from Lauderdale County Schools

1951 - W.C. Handy Elementary School - West Irvine Avenue

1. 1952 - Burrell High School renamed to Burrell-Slater
2. 1954 - New location of Weeden School (Baldwin Street)
3. 1955 - Harlan Elementary School (named for Samuel Clay Harlan, former member of Board of Education and local industrialist), Norwood Boulevard
4. 1959 - Powell Elementary School (named for J.W. Powell, former Superintendent of Education), Tune Avenue
5. 1961 - New location of Burrell-Slater High School, Cherokee Street

1961 - Richards Elementary School, Riverview Drive

1. 1963 - Forest Hills Elementary School, Stovall Drive
2. 1966 - Bradshaw High School (named for Henry A. Bradshaw, former member of Board of Education), Bruin Drive (currently Bradshaw Drive)
3. 1980 - Hibbett School (named for Rufus G. Hibbett, former Superintendent of Education), Appleby Boulevard
4. 2004 - Florence High School (consolidation of Bradshaw High and Coffee High; located on Bradshaw High campus)