



Kingsport City Schools™

PROJECT HERITAGE TIMELINE

The name Kingsport was accepted in the late 18th century. It does not stem from King George or any other crown, but from Col. James King, who owned the King's Mill Station at the mouth of Reedy Creek and used the Holston River to ship commodities. The success of his business gave the city its name, because the area was being referred to as King's Port, which eventually evolved into Kingsport.

1800s

City of Kingsport

City of Kingsport

1833

Population: 317

Evidence of a high school in Kingsport was documented located on the banks of Reedy Creek.

1870s

Kingsport High School

Kingsport High School

1877

Professor Copenhaver was named the first principal of Kingsport High School.
Student Body: 40

Robert E. Lee School (dba Oklahoma School) opened on Myrtle and Sevier Streets.
Student Body: 125

1900

Robert E. Lee School

Kingsport Grade School or Kingsport Academy opened

1904/1905

Kingsport Grade School

Kingsport Public Schools

1913

1913 was the official beginning of Kingsport Public Schools. Anna Lee Mitchell was name principal of the three room structure with a new school term lengthened from 6 to 8 months.
Student Body: 200

The population of the "Model City" grew from 1,206 to 7,182 in one year!

1915

Model City

More Space Needed

1917

High School students attended classes in Broad Street Episcopal Church due to increased enrollment numbers. On May 18, the first Board of Education appointed Eugene M. Couch the first Superintendent of the school district.

Grades 1 – 12 in the new Central School (also Kingsport High School) facing Sevier Street. This building later became the first George Washington Elementary School.

1918

Central School

Grades 1-12 in new Central School (also Kingsport High School, facing Sevier Street.

1918

Central School

Kingsport High School

1918/1919

Kingsport High School recognized as regular school

In June, first commencement exercises held for three graduates.

1919

First Commencement

New Schools needed

1920's

Need for new schools recognized. Andrew Jackson Elementary and Abraham Lincoln Elementary Schools built

Andrew Jackson Elementary opened on January 3, on Jackson Street.

1921

Andrew Jackson Elementary

Abraham Lincoln Elementary opened January 3, on Center Street.

1921

Abraham Lincoln Elementary

First Football Team

1922

First football team, coached by LeRoy Sprankle, "Father of Kingsport Athletics".

Oklahoma School housed 102 African American students.

1923

Oklahoma School

Ross N. Robinson

1924

After serving three years as principal of Kingsport High School, Ross N. Robinson became Superintendent of Schools

Total enrollment was 1,691.

1924

Enrollment

Sept. 7, Junior High Students moved to new building in Oklahoma Grove.

1925

Junior High Students

July 24, C.K. Koffman elected principal at Central High School.

Central High Principal

1926

George Washington School, formerly known as Central High School, began operating as an elementary school in the fall.

1926

Washington Elementary

Dobyns-Bennett

1926

New high school building on Wateree Street for grades 7-12. Name changed to Dobyns-Bennett, named for J.W. Dobyns, first mayor, and W. K. Bennett, first School Board Chairman.

Douglass High School opened for African American students.

1927

Douglass High School

Lynn Garden Elementary School opened as a county school. Would be annexed into the City of Kingsport in 1990, with its name changed to John F. Kennedy Elementary.

1928

Lynn Garden Elementary

West View Elementary

1933

West View Elementary opened as a county school. Would be annexed into the City of Kingsport in 1993, with its name changed to Theodore Roosevelt Elementary.

Dickson School was built and operated as a county school until 1963 when it was annexed by the city. It closed as a school in 1983.

1934

Dickson School

Lincoln Elementary Moves

1937

Abraham Lincoln Elementary opens on Summer Street.

Grades 7 and 8 moved from Dobyens-Bennett to the former Lincoln School on Center Street, becoming Kingsport Junior High.

1937

Kingsport Junior High

Von Omer Dobbins was named principal at Douglass High School, where he served until 1966.

1942

V.O. Dobbins

Washington-Lee

1949

Robert E. Lee became part of Washington, becoming Washington-Lee.

Fort Robinson built and operated as county school until 1963. Named changed to James Madison. Operated until 1983, when it closed.

1949

Fort Robinson School

Palmer Center

1949

Palmer Early Learning Center opened on Center Street. Named for Col. E. W. Palmer, an advocate for children with disabilities.

New Douglass School built in Riverview Community. Renovations completed at Washington-Lee.

1951

New Douglass School

Andrew Johnson Elementary opened on Ormond Drive

1953

Andrew Johnson Elementary

John Sevier Junior High

1955

Kingsport Junior High reopened as John Sevier Junior High, housing grades 7-9.

Ross N. Robinson Junior High opened on Jesse Street, serving grades 7-9, creating two junior high schools.

1955

Robinson Junior High

Thomas Jefferson Elementary

1959

Highland Park Elementary on Westmoreland Street, part of the county system, becomes Thomas Jefferson Elementary, joining the city.

James Madison becomes a city school

1963

James Madison Elementary

384 African American students and 16 teachers integrate from Douglass School.

1966

Integration

“New” Dobyys-Bennett

1967

New building opens for Dobyys-Bennett on Legion Drive. First graduated class numbered 410 students.

Largest Dobyys-Bennett graduating class, 512 students.

1972

D-B Largest Class

6th, 9th grades shift

1976

6th graders move to junior highs; 9th graders moved to high school; Palmer students mainstreamed; DB Vocational (CTE) building opens.

Lee School no longer served as elementary school, with renovations to serve other populations.

1977

Lee School

Central

Radio Station On-Air

1980

WCSK Radio 90.3 FM

Patsy Garriott

1981

First female Board of Education member

Madison and Dickson schools closed. In addition, bible classes were discontinued.

1983

School Closings

Coach Buck Van Huss

1985

Coach Van Huss named National Coach of the Year for men's basketball

Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) opens at the Palmer Early Learning Center

1988

ECLC

John F. Kennedy Elementary incorporated in KCS.
(see 1928)

1990

John F. Kennedy Elementary

Roosevelt Elementary

1993

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary incorporated into KCS.
(see 1933)

New George Washington Elementary building opens on
Bellingham Drive.

1994

Washington Elementary

Annex Closes

2002

KCS Annex, formerly Washington Elementary and Central
School was closed for use by the system.

DB Athletic Field House opens, funded by private donations
and the DB Alumni Association.

2005

Field House

John Adams Elementary School opens in Rock Springs area.

2009

John Adams Elementary

Cora Cox Academy

2012

Cora Cox Academy building used as alternative school

Cora Cox Academy name changed to D-B Excel at Cora Cox Academy . It is a non-traditional school focused on blended learning.

2014

D-B Excel

year

year