

Needham High School



Needham's first "High School" (1865) consisted of rented rooms above the general store. In the mid-19th century, few students went to school beyond the 6th or 7th grade unless they aspired to a profession. In the 1870s, the high school classes were moved to the top floor of the Kimball Grammar School on School Street, where they shared space with the fledgling Public Library.

Not until the 1890s were there enough High School students to justify a school of their own, and after that the number of students began to grow rapidly. The first Needham High School building was the (now-called) Emery Grover Building on Highland Avenue, built in 1898 (#19). Additional space was needed in the 1920s, so the Highland Avenue School was built in 1924, and finally the familiar High School building on the hill in 1930. Subsequent additions have expanded the building, and a recent renovation added new space and modernized its infrastructure.