

Patchogue became School District #20 in 1813, which was divided into four districts in 1843, and then consolidated into Union Free School District #24 in 1869. From this time on, the rapid increase of pupils called for a constant expansion and new construction of schools.



The Swan River Schoolhouse of District #39 is the oldest surviving schoolhouse in the Patchogue area. This school, on the east side of Roe Avenue in East Patchogue, was built in 1858. The picture was taken c. 1870. Today this schoolhouse is owned by Brookhaven Town and serves as a museum. The interior has been restored as an old classroom, including a pot-bellied stove.

The Academy Street School was located on the southeast corner of South Ocean Avenue and Academy Street. When the Patchogue Union Free School District #24 was formed in 1869, plans were drawn up by John Roe Smith for this new central school building. Construction began in 1870 under the supervision of Edwin Bailey. The school was dedicated on October 16, 1871.



When the Academy Street School opened in 1871, the principal, professor Drummond, and five assistants were teaching four hundred pupils. The building had two large class rooms on each of its three floors. In 1883 a two story addition was added to the rear of the building. In 1887 each floor was divided into four class rooms and a hot air heating system was installed. In this 1905 picture a group of students and their teacher pose in front of the school.

