

First Step Is Big One

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A campaign carried on by Staten Island parents of mentally retarded children at last has been capped by success.

Starting in September, job training programs for retardates from 17 to 21 years old will be provided in four portable classrooms at PS 8, Great Kills.

State law requires such instruction but it never has been available on Staten Island or, as a matter of fact, in any other borough except Manhattan. A program will be instituted this fall in Queens and next year in Brooklyn and the Bronx.

The portable classrooms, of course, are only a stopgap and the teacher shortage is still a major problem but a start has been made. With the initial step taken, backers of the program feel, the major obstacle has been overcome.

Anyone familiar with the effort they already have expended and knowing their dedication and determination can't help but agree.

Editorial