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Project MHOI-15-00-67-004 Ready to Roll

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In the stilted terminology of administrative, it is known as project MHOI-15-00-67-004—To Improve and Expand the Educational Program for the Mentally Retarded.

ers and students it means summer school with a reading clinic, psychological testing, field trips, and classes in art, music and speech. Approximately half of the 1,100 students who attend classes during the regular

school term at Willowbrook State School will participate in the summer classes which begin tomorrow. Those not attending will be on leave from the institution, staying in their own homes. The six-weeks summer term

is financed by a \$223,114 federal grant. This is the second year for summer classes at the state institution. Last year the summer staff totaled 26. This year it totals 107, with 64 teachers, 31 teacher assistants,

two psychologists, six supervisors, one educational director, one clerk and two stenographers.

The summer classes will give the students extra help in reading with new teaching machines known as "talking typewriters." Each typewriter is installed in a desk in an enclosed partition. Through special windows the teacher can observe the student without distracting him.

A number of field trips are planned on Staten Island, other boroughs, New Jersey and upstate New York. The trips offer a glimpse of the world outside Willowbrook to some youngsters who otherwise never leave the institution's regular

grounds. The summer classes also serve as an introduction to school for children who were not able to attend classes during the school year.

Evaluation of last summer's classes revealed the program "made quite a difference" in those children attending, said Mrs. Hannah Glasser, director of education at Willowbrook.

None of the children regressed and most showed improvement in work habits, social skills, personal grooming and motor coordination, she said. She said she had no difficulty filling staff positions. Of the 64 teachers, all but three are regular staff members.