

Judge keeps schools open for retarded

A judge issued a preliminary injunction yesterday in Manhattan barring the state from closing two schools for the mentally retarded as an economy measure.

State Supreme Court Justice Xavier Riccobono issued the order on the petition of parents of children at Gouverneur Hospital on Manhattan's Lower East Side, one of the institutions which the state planned to close.

It also proposed to move the 689 retarded adults in Sampson School at Willard, N.Y., to nine other institutions in the upstate area. Sampson, which utilizes World War II naval barracks, was to be closed.

Mrs. Willie Mae Goodman, mother of one Gouverneur child, asked the court to bar the Sampson transfers as well because "for the most part the Sampson patients have been neglected."

The parents maintained that the Gouverneur transfers would cause irreparable damage to the children and that Willowbrook State School on the Island to which they were to be transferred, is already overcrowded.

A spokesman for the state Mental Hygiene Department said the order will be opposed. He said that the transfers are required by the budget cutbacks ordered by the Legislature. He agreed that Willowbrook, with 5,216 patients, is "reasonably overcrowded," although he said it is not as bad as it has been in the past.

The judge's order did not affect the department's plan to transfer 60 children from Willowbrook to the Suffolk State School in Huntington to make room for the Gouverneur children.