

Fewer attending special schools

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — State mental health officials report that a variety of factors have led to another drop in the resident population of state schools for the mentally retarded, bringing the total to an 11-year low.

Dr. Frederic Grunberg, deputy commissioner of the state department of Mental Hygiene, said the current population is 23,809, a drop of 1,426 from a year ago and 3,745 less than the peak population of 1967.

He attributed the decline to an increase in placements into community and family-care programs, closer screening of applicants and development of services.