

U.S. sues to inspect 2 more state schools

The U.S. Department of Justice, acting as a friend of the court in a suit filed by the New York State Association for Retarded Children, against Gov. Rockefeller, yesterday filed two actions in Brooklyn Federal Court to inspect and learn how a Queens and a Brooklyn school handle their retarded patients.

In what appears to be a search for a comparison of treatment facilities, care and personnel among the Creedmoor unit of the Queens State School and the Kings County unit of the Kings County State School and Willowbrook State School, a request to conduct interrogatories filed by Justice Department attorneys from Washington must be answered within 30 days unless objections are filed before then.

In its second action, the Justice Department is asking for permission for the Federal

Bureau of Investigation to conduct a physical inspection of the Brooklyn and Queens schools, such as the FBI has done at the Willowbrook facility.

The government's interrogatories were directed to Gov. Rockefeller; Alan D. Miller, commissioner of the state Department of Mental Hygiene, and Robert W. Hayes, associate commissioner for Mental Retardation of the Department of Mental Hygiene, and must be answered within 30 days unless objections are filed opposing the request.

The interrogatories question the number of residents at the Brooklyn and Queens facilities who have been received from the Willowbrook State School since last April 12.

Included are questions involving details of whether residents are ambulatory or non-ambulatory and the wards

the residents from Willowbrook have been assigned to.

The questions probe for the number of attendants and their grades on each of three shifts, and whether an employe is assigned to more than one ward.

The interrogatories also seek to determine whether there are individual rehabilitation plans, in writing, for each resident, whether straitjackets, handcuffs or other such devices are used, and what time is spent in seclusion.