

Meeting set on fate of 3 hepatitis pupils

Officials from the Board of Education and the Health Department are expected to meet tomorrow to review a controversial decision barring three identified hepatitis carriers attending PS 69, New Springville, from their normal classes.

A spokesman for the board's special education division said yesterday the two city agencies hope to come up with a firm policy outlining the future of the PS 69 carriers, as well as 17 others identified within the city schools.

All 20 students are mentally retarded and live or once lived at Willowbrook Developmental Center. All attend special education classes at PS 69. The three children were separated last week from other special education students, given their own teacher and classroom after parents complained of their presence in the regular class.

Medical experts say there is a small risk that the carriers can pass on hepatitis through blood products or saliva. But they say the risk is small and that proper hygienic precautions can prevent spread of the disease, known as type B or serum hepatitis, which attacks the liver, causing lethargy, nausea and jaundice.
