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## Agreement to shut Willowbrook is reached

ALBANY—The state and parents of individuals who lived at the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island reached a settlement yesterday that will close the mental hospital notorious for its overcrowding and nightmarish conditions.

Parents first sued the state 15 years ago over conditions at Willowbrook, now the Staten Island Developmental Center, which once housed more than 5,000.

The state was ordered by a federal court in 1976 to begin improving conditions at Willowbrook and gradually reduce its population. Any changes at the facility had to be approved by the court. Yesterday's settlement ends the federal court's involvement in overseeing Willowbrook by 1992.

Under the settlement, the state has promised to close the facility, which currently has 130 patients, by the end of the year