

STATE SCHOOL INFORMATION

1. What is a State School?

A State School is a residential facility designed to provide a full array of life support services for mentally retarded persons. "Mentally retarded person" refers to one who has subaverage general intellectual functioning which originates during the developmental period and is associated with impairment in adaptive behavior.

The care and treatment for mentally retarded persons should be provided in the communities where they reside. Institutionalization should be accomplished only after it has been determined that no community resources are available for a particular person.

The State School provides a complete community for mentally retarded persons above the age of 1 year.

2. What does a State School need?

1. Several hundred acres of land, depending upon the size of the School.
2. Several hundred volunteers to assist in providing services to the residents.
3. Manpower to staff the facility. (Several hundred individuals - among them a number of Special Education Teachers.)
4. Community support to provide a healthy atmosphere between the School and the surrounding cities.
5. Civic groups or other associations capable of providing a number of items not possible to obtain through State funding: Chapel, etc. .

3. Advantages of a State School located in Tarrant County.

1. Tarrant County has resources and manpower to meet the needs of a State School.
2. Area colleges and Universities can provide qualified professional staff.
3. Tarrant County residents who are accepted in the State School would be close to their families.
4. The State School would provide jobs for several hundred County residents, thereby keeping the County's economy.
5. The "outreach services" of the School could be utilized by Tarrant County, i.e., vocational rehabilitation programs and group living situations.

4. Advantages of a State School in a metropolitan area as opposed to a rural community.

1. More jobs for those retarded people engaged in vocational rehabilitation.
2. Lower prices on materials, foods and services.
3. Availability of more and better qualified staff.
4. Availability of more cultural resources for the School residents.
5. Availability of a larger volunteer force.