

Ed, Teacher

GOV. and Legislature should not be involved in evaluating teachers. Return that responsibility to the local communities.

The state Education Department is conducting a review of the evaluation system and the growth calculations.

On Monday, education commissioner MaryEllen Elia gave a speech after the panel in which she commented on Tisch's remarks. "I don't believe children should be in the middle of politics," she said.

"Having the incursion of the politics has really just made it more difficult to be nimble when adjusting education policy," Tisch told POLITICO New York after the panel. "If we could change the regulations, believe me, we would do it. It's unclear how much we can change the regulations."

Tisch said the Regents board members and the Education Department will lay out a set of proposals for the Legislature based on their review of the standards, testing and evaluations.

After the panel, New York State United Teachers president Karen Magee told POLITICO New York she found the political comments distracting.

"One of the things that often happens when there hasn't been progress or movement to address an issue is to shine a light in a different direction, and I think some of the comments today were an attempt to place the blame or lay the blame in other places," Magee said. "At the end of the day, it's the responsibility of the state Education Department to figure out what needs to be done with students and learning."

As for the changes to the teacher evaluation system, testing and standards, Elia said state education officials will continue their review and work with the Legislature to make changes accordingly. "We need to be working together," she said.

CLARIFICATION: An earlier version of this article said that the state Regents are selected by the state Assembly. The Regents are selected by the Legislature in joint session, but Assembly Democrats effectively currently control the process.