

- SUBJECT:** Exempting certain principals from principal leadership pilot program
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Eissler, Farias, Jackson, Olivo, Patrick, Shelton, Weber
0 nays
4 absent — Hochberg, Allen, Aycock, Dutton
- WITNESSES:** For — Harley Eckhart, Texas Elementary Principals & Supervisors Association; Ellen Williams, Houston Independent School District; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Gary Braudaway, Polytechnic High School in Fort Worth ISD; Amanda Brownson, Texas School Alliance; David Duty, Texas Association of Community Schools; Monty Exter, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Rebecca Flores, Houston ISD; Leslie James, Fort Worth ISD; Alejandra “Alex” Martin, Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Ted Melina Raab, Texas AFT; Martin Pena, South Texas Association of Schools; Julie Shields, Texas Association of School Boards)

Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** The School Leadership Pilot Program provides training to principals in problem solving, critical thinking, relationship building, organizational management, effective use of data, fiscal management, and the promotion of ethical leadership to improve leadership skills, student achievement, student graduation rates, and teacher retention with public schools. A principal of a campus rated academically unacceptable, as well as any person employed to replace that principal, must participate. The pilot program ends September 1, 2010.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 4435 would exempt from participation in the school leadership pilot program a principal who was not employed as principal the academic year for which the campus earned an academically unacceptable rating. This exemption would apply only to a school rated academically unacceptable during the 2008-09 school year.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

A principal new to a campus was not responsible for the rating of the previous academic year, and therefore should not be required to attend training solely based upon that rating. This program removes a principal from campus for extended periods of time preventing the principal from adequately performing job duties.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The substitute differs from the bill as filed by limiting the exemption to the 2008-09 school year and applying the exemption specifically to a principal who was not employed as a principal at a campus that was rated academically unacceptable during the preceding school year.