

Reflecting on the AVF Policy

By
Dashawn L. Bailey
Register Forum Staff



Photo Credit: Annie Bonsey

CRLS' goal for the student attendance policy is to promote consistent school and class attendance.

CRLS defines the AVF policy as "students are expected to be in each class a minimum of 95% of the time. Students should not be absent from classes more than four times each quarter to achieve this goal."

A student who is

truant either by frequently being absent or tardy without an adequate reason is in violation of this policy, setting them up for failure. It is understandable that regular attendance is essential to learning and improving student success in school performance.

However, does it work and are students fully aware of it?

CRLS' goal is to help each student be successful even when they have accumulated unexcused absences or tardies that could result in an AVF but even if eligible for a buy-back plan. If students do not reach the specific requirements, should it result in a failing grade for the term?

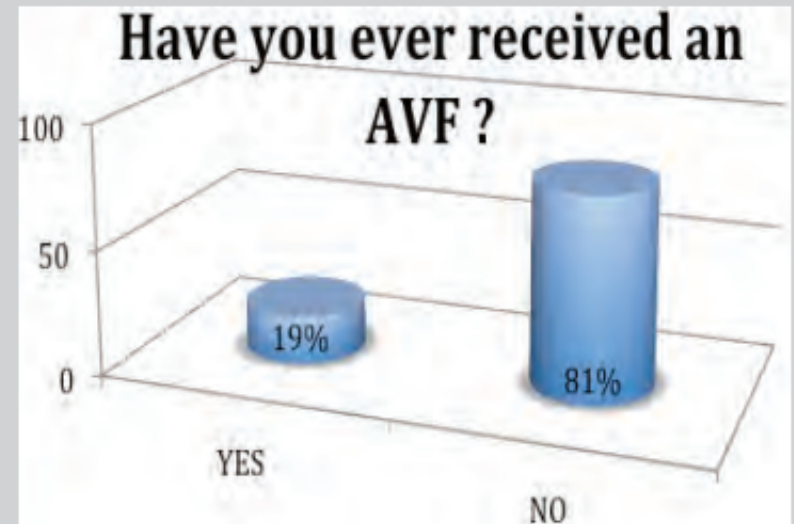
According to an *RF* survey evaluating 100 CRLS students, 91% know of the AVF policy while the other 9% have never heard of it, simply because they are freshman entering their

first year of high school. Is the AVF Policy fair? 22% find the policy fair, while 78% do not.

So does attendance properly represent one's effort?

Senior Shaniece Cooper responded, "Although coming to school is important, your grade should not be penalized because of your attendance because it's basically saying that you did the work for no reason. If someone is getting their work done and maintaining a good grade, why should it be taken away? That's like handing out a bunch of failure rewards."

Junior William Feeney, however, agreed with the AVF policy, "You should be penalized because of your attendance because CRLS is only setting you up to learn in the real world. If you're late to a job, they won't hire you or



you will just get fired right on the spot. Plus it may motivate people to be more punctual."

Students seemed to agree that it should be more lenient in different cases. Someone who cuts class should not be given the same punishment as someone who just has time or family issues.

To get to the bottom of everything, Dean of School C Ms.Espinosa and Dean of School R Ms. DiClemente explained their thoughts on the AVF policy at CRLS.

Ms.Espinosa an-

swered, "I don't think it's the most effective policy, but I do think it changes students that are chronically late & absent. It can change the behavior of kids that are nearing violation."

Ms DiClemente responded, "Attendance is a state requirement, students need to be in school in order to learn, which is why attendance is so important."

According to Ms.Espinosa, on average 150 kids are late every morning between 8:00 and 8:30 and roughly 80 students AVF each term at CRLS.