

## Seven Keys to Promoting an Understanding of Policy in a Social Work Field Placement

1. Encourage students to stay current with Federal & State Legislation that impacts your agency – State Cuts in a Budget, Expansion of a program.
2. Promote the reading and the understanding of your agency's policies and have them to present at least one of the policies during your supervision in which you discuss the rationale for the policy being in place at the agency.
3. Assign students to attend agency board meetings and to discuss the actions of the board meetings in supervision meetings.
4. Have students to understand and to learn the history of when, why, and how your agency was established and how has it been successful in meeting its mission.
5. Help students to understand who are the influential people and organizations within your community and state who directly impacts the policy of your agencies.
6. Challenge students to look at ethical situations as they relate to creating and to administering policies at your agency, integrate issues found in the NASW Code of Ethics.
7. Support students assessing current agency policies in order to ascertain their recommendations on how to better implement a policy and/or to determine if there is a policy that needs to be created which can benefit the manner in which the agency meets the needs of its clients.