



Early Childhood Education

Milwaukee Area Technical College- Early Childhood Education Program

April 2017

Challenges for Early Childhood Profession

- Quality of care provided to young children is directly influenced by quality education of care providers
- Low wages limit ability to fund college tuition
- Employers unable to offset educational expense
- Work schedule of care providers poses a challenge to attending traditional college classes

“There is a substantial ‘educational gap’ between the current workforce and a workforce that would allow every YoungStar-rated program to attain a high-quality rating.”

Source: Public Policy Forum, “Reaching for the Stars,” 2014

Uneven Access to Quality

North/Northwest-Geographic distribution of Child Care Centers with Young Star Ratings by zip codes.

53209

5: 2
4: 5
3: 36
2: 59
1: 1

53218

5: 1
4: 1
3: 42
2: 65
1: 0

53216

5: 3
4: 5
3: 43
2: 57
1: 1

53206

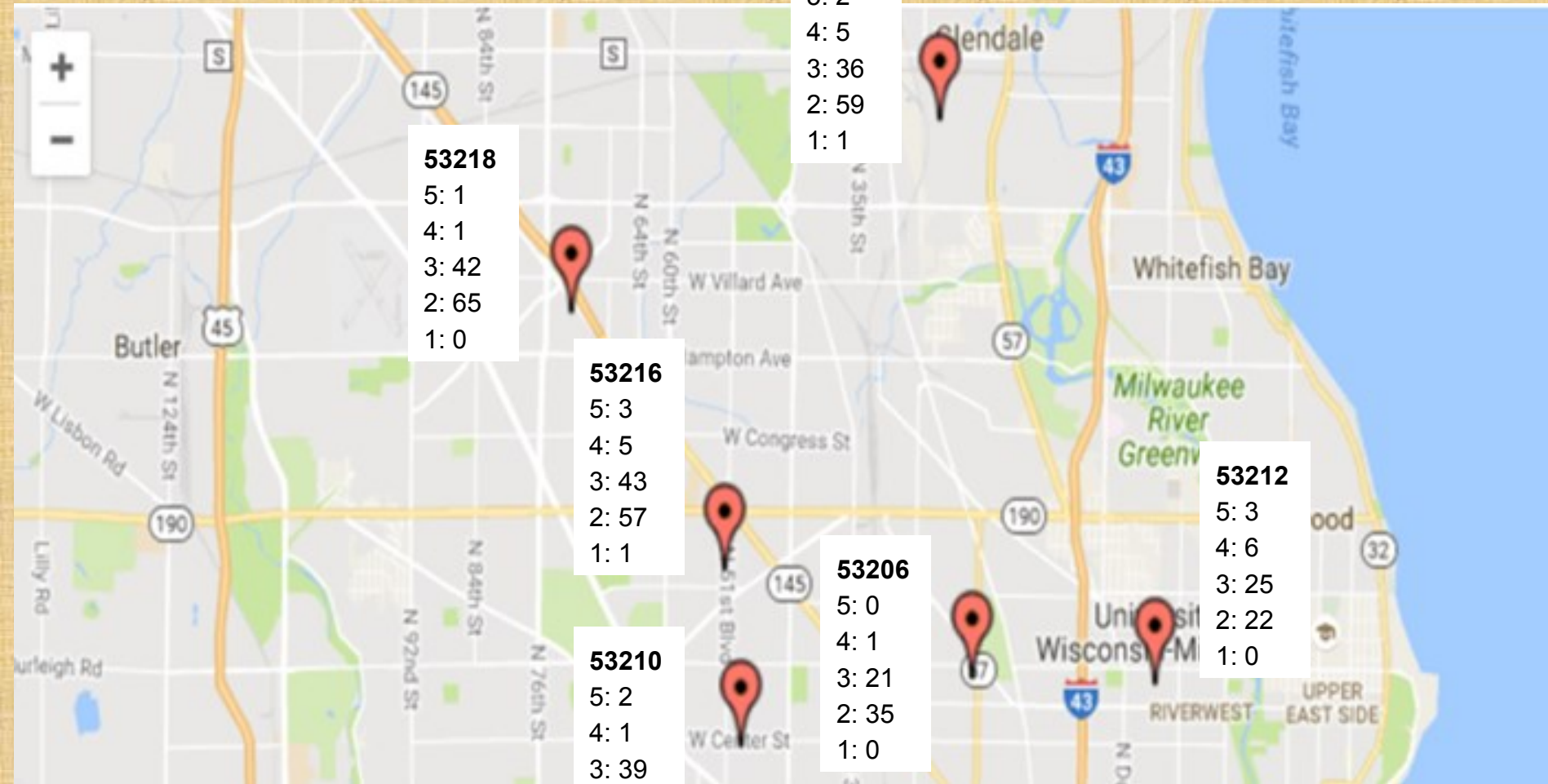
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4: 1
3: 21
2: 35
1: 0

53212

5: 3
4: 6
3: 25
2: 22
1: 0

53210

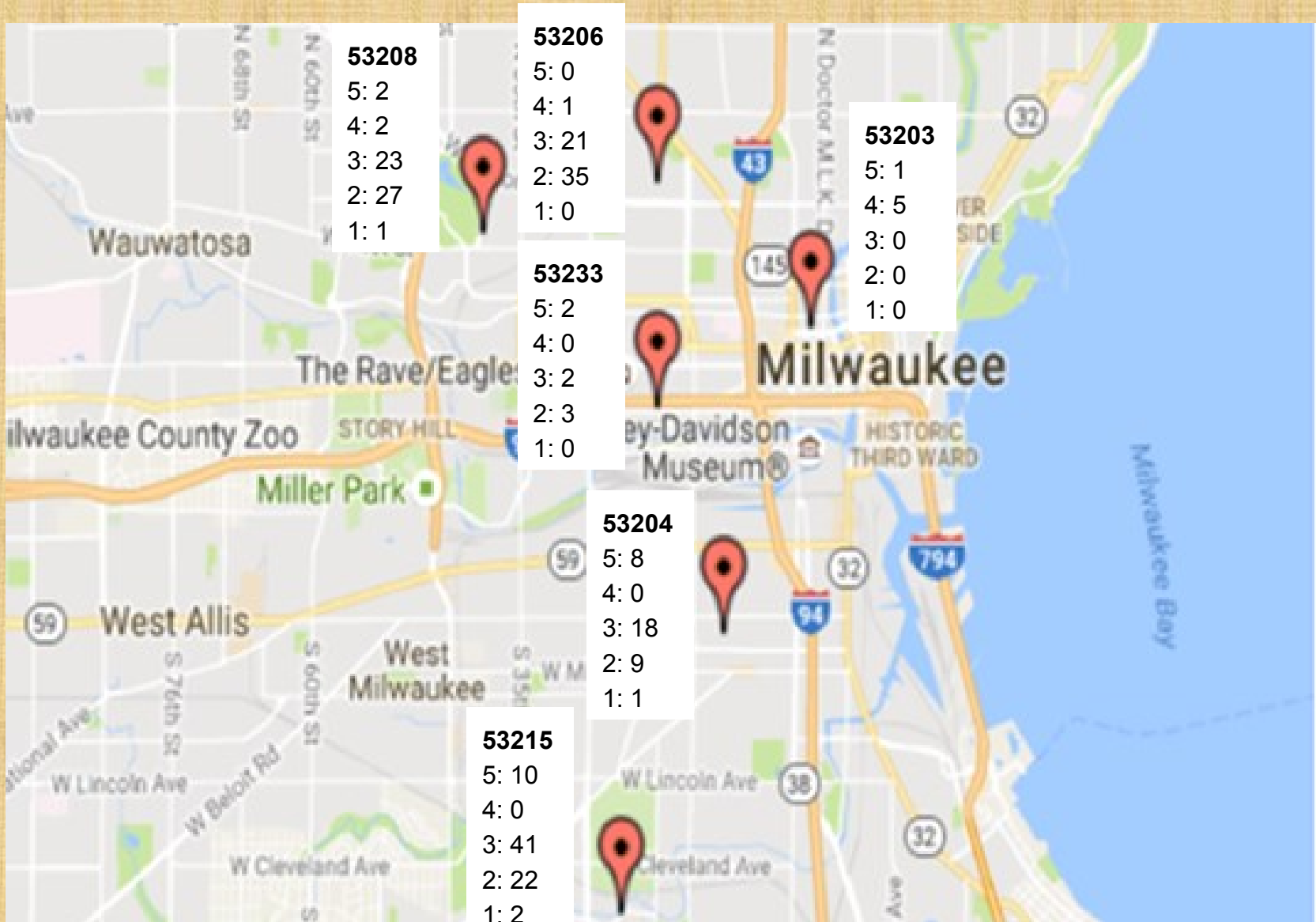
5: 2
4: 1
3: 39
2: 46
1: 2



Uneven Access to Quality

Downtown/South

*Information provided by Jeanette Paulson From WECA



Early Childhood Education Program at MATC

- Certificate, Technical Diploma and Associate Degree
- Transfer agreements with UWs and private colleges
 - State-aligned curriculum for associate degree to support easy transfer*
- NAEYC Accredited
- Classes in English, Spanish and Hmong
- Cohort-based classes at MATC and selected centers
- Options including credentials from The Registry
- Practicum in MATC 5-Star Child Care Centers
- More than 40 classes each semester
 - Variety of formats including traditional, blended, online, accelerated*

Facing the Challenge

- Collaborative approach to meeting industry needs
Flexible delivery of quality program and support services
- Partnerships with WECA, Early Head Start and neighborhood-based group and family providers
- Workforce development and quality improvement
Multiple approaches to offer maximum community benefit



Value of MATC Education

Peer Support

“Students support each other through the course beyond class time and can speak together about how to implement best practices at their location with a common frame of reference.”

“Many students are more confident working in a cohort because the approach helps provide a sense of support and collaboration.”

Digital Literacy

“At the beginning of a course often a student would say, ‘I am not good at technology,’ and later in the course would ask, ‘Can I submit this assignment online?’”

--MATC Instructors

--Educational Assistants

Value of MATC Education

Access to Credentials

“The classes challenged us to think more about raising the bar for the education of our staff. Registry credentials alongside WMELS standards provide a focus that we as teachers need to plan and implement meaningful interactions with children that prepare them well.” --Student



Value of MATC Education

Collaboration

“Close to 100 child care staff have been involved in the partnership between Next Door and MATC to support child care teachers to gain the Infant/Toddler Credential, the first step for many in their higher education pathway.

Our partnership with MATC opened the doors of educational pathways for child care teachers who never considered enrolling in college. This partnership made it possible for child care teachers to be supported as a community of learners. For many teachers the idea of a college education was financially unattainable.

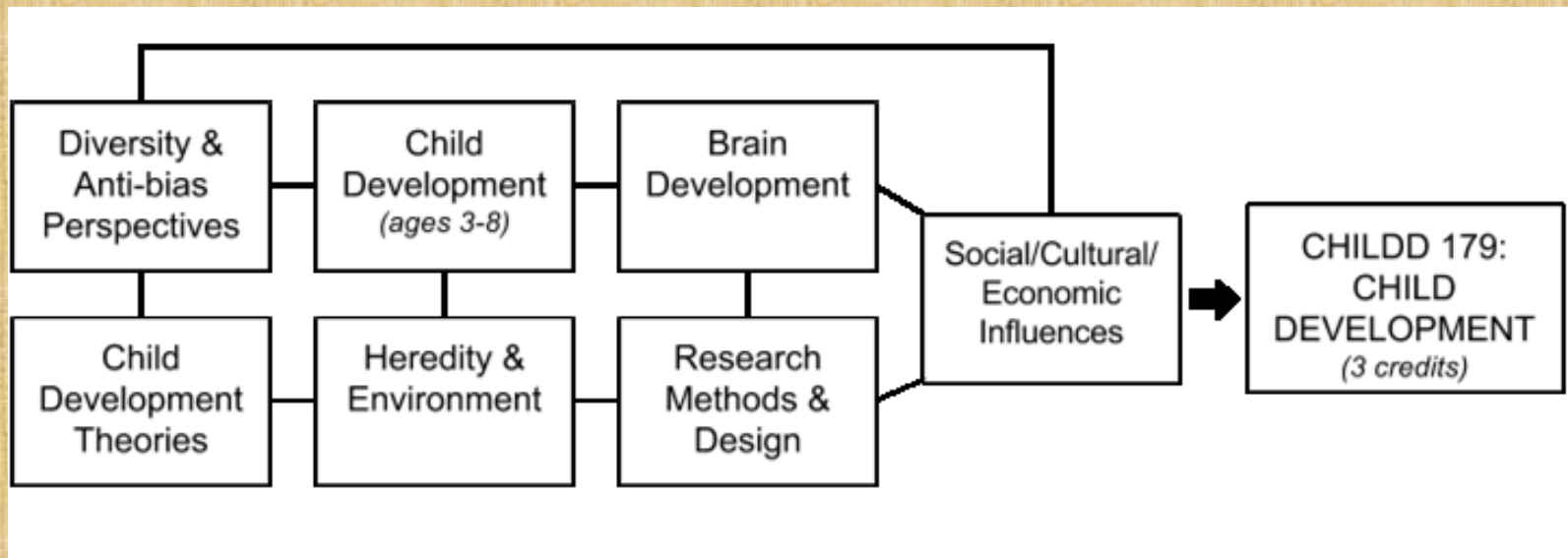
The grants offered through MATC and Next Door created an opportunity where higher education was now within their reach.”

--Debi Schwid, Professional Development Director, Next Door Foundation

Course Proposal: Model #1

- **Modular Format**

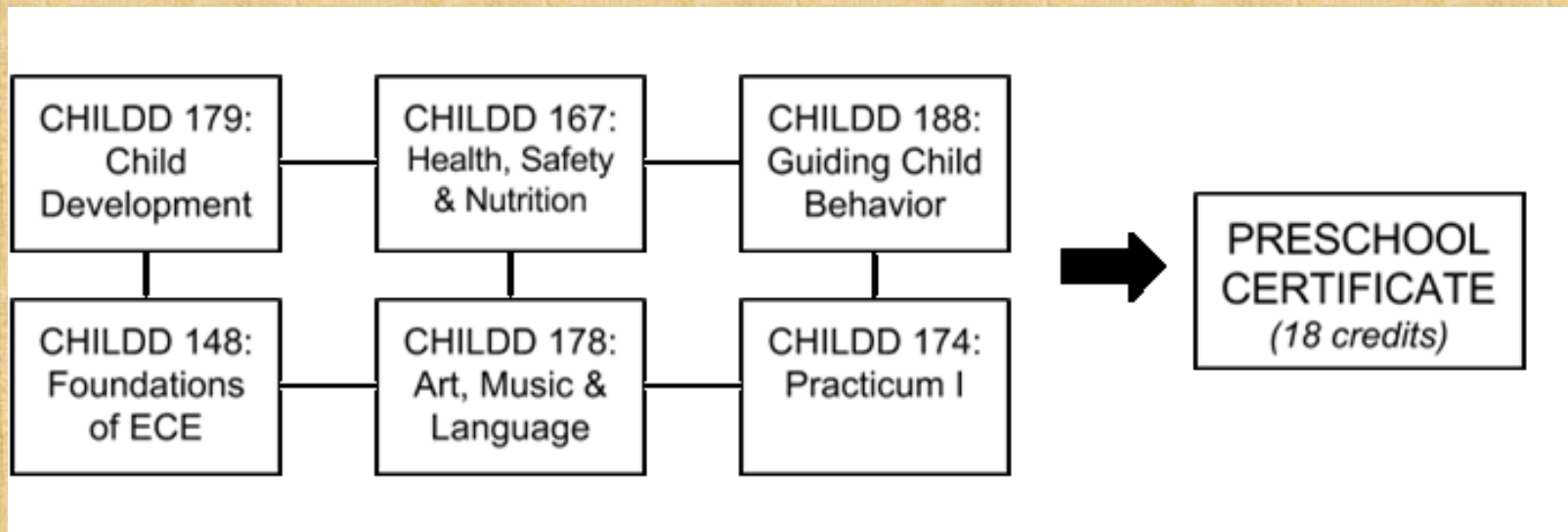
Courses will be broken down into workshop-type modules and delivered in community settings (off campus). The modules will lead toward completion of a 3-credit course in the Preschool Credential. Each module reflects course competencies in the state-wide curriculum.



Course Proposal: Model #2

- **Credential Format**

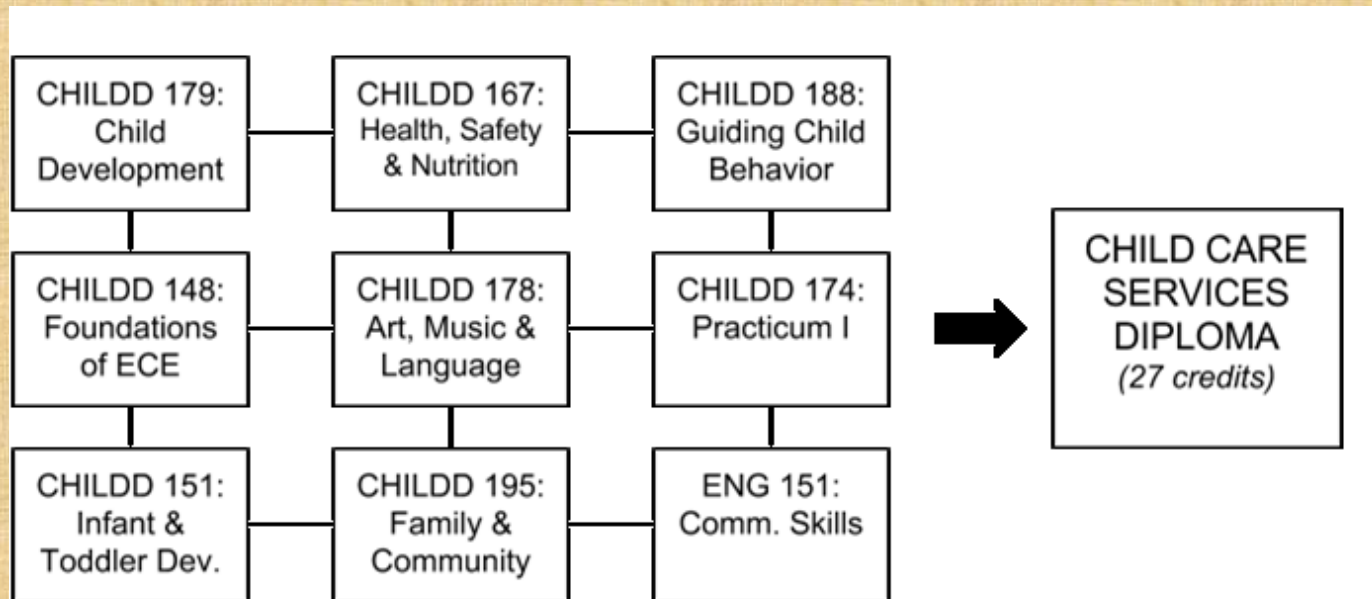
Courses are delivered in a cohort/accelerated structure in community settings (off campus). MATC offers several Registry credential options. Preschool Credential courses (18 credits) are embedded in the Child Care Specialist Diploma (27 credits).



Course Proposal: Model #3

- **Technical Diploma Format**

Courses are delivered in a cohort/accelerated structure in community settings. Completion of the Preschool Certificate (18 credits) leads to enrollment in the Child Care Specialist Diploma (27 credits). Completion of the Child Care Services Diploma leads to enrollment in the Early Childhood Education associate degree program, which is transferrable to a four-year college or university.



Community Connections

Milwaukee PBS and the MATC Early Childhood Education faculty will strengthen collaboration to provide resources to support child care providers, parents and program students with resources/content, digital tools and community outreach through PBS stations.



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