

# Tulsa Public Schools EDGE 8th Grade Application

## Program Overview

Thank you for your interest in the EDGE high school programs at McLain High School and Memorial High School! Completing this application will take you roughly 45 minutes and additionally will require you to write an essay and attach a letter of recommendation. Please come prepared, you will have to complete the application in its entirety.

Earn a Degree Graduate Early (EDGE) is a pilot program that provides an educational opportunity to students through a partnership between your high school and Tulsa Community College. Students attending EDGE will take a rigorous course of study and, if successful, will earn a Liberal Arts Associate Degree from TCC and a traditional high school diploma. We pursue academic excellence and are excited to offer this unique college experience to a cohort of students who meet the application criteria and are selected. Students who not selected for EDGE may pursue Dual Credit to College Degree after the 10th grade.

In order to be considered for this program, make sure to complete this application in its entirety and submit an enrollment form via SmartChoice. Go to <http://www.tulsaschools.org/enroll> and select "McLain Early College High School" or "Memorial Early College High School" as your first choice.

## Applicant Information

Please review the application carefully and ensure all the information provided is complete and accurate. Any incorrect and / or incomplete application will not be considered. You may complete an application via a Qualtrics computer link that will automatically be returned to our staff, or you may complete this paper application.

**If you choose the paper application, you must complete all parts in clear print handwriting, use only the form provided, and write in black ink. Return the paper application to the district site/staff that gave it to you.**

Each student and student's parent/guardian must read and sign below to indicate that they are providing authorization for the student to participate in all components of the TCC EDGE program while they are enrolled in the high school listed below and agree to abide by the terms and condition of the TCC EDGE program including those set forth in this application.

Academic Year 2021-2022

After completing the form and securing the appropriate signatures, return the form to [EDGE@tulsacc.edu](mailto:EDGE@tulsacc.edu) or to Tulsa Community College Attn. Dual Credit Programs IC-122, 7505 West 41<sup>st</sup> St. Tulsa OK 74107, or you may return the application according to your district instruction.

What school do you currently attend?

- Carver Middle School
- Central Middle School
- Daniel Webster Middle School
- East Central Junior High
- Edison Preparatory Middle School
- Hale Junior High
- Monroe Demonstration Academy
- Memorial Middle School
- Rogers Middle School
- Thoreau Demonstration Academy
- Collegiate Hall
- KIPP Tulsa College Preparatory
- Tulsa Honor Academy
- Tulsa Legacy Charter
- Tulsa School of Arts & Science
- TRAICE Academy Middle and High School
- Tulsa MET Junior and High School
- Tulsa Virtual Academy
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT SECTION**

Dear Student,

Near the end of this application you will write one 450-500 word essay. It may be helpful to begin thinking about which prompt below you will choose at that time.

1. Discuss what you feel will be your biggest challenge in participating in the EDGE program in high school.
2. Explain what you think the following quote means and how it might apply to your life now or in the future. "It's easier to build strong children than it is to repair broken men." Fredrick Douglass
3. Describe a real-world problem you have encountered or witnessed and propose a means of improving the problem. Stay away from ideological topics (e.g., prayer or religion in public schools or

racism). Focus on tangible issues where there are specific action steps anyone can take.						
4. Define what leadership means to you and give examples, positive or negative, from your life. Your essay should demonstrate what you learned about leadership and how you hope to use those lessons.						
Student High School <b>CIRCLE ONE</b>	Broken Arrow High School	Charles Page High School	McLain High School	Memorial High School	Union High School	KIPP
Student Mobile Phone						
Student Email Address						
School student ID						
T-shirt size						
Has anyone in your immediate family received a college degree? (excluding technical certificates)  <b>CIRCLE YES OR NO</b>  <b>IF YES, CIRCLE THE HIGHEST DEGREE COMPLETED</b>	<p>Mother</p> <p>Yes / No</p> <p>If yes, what was the highest degree attained?</p> <p>Associate – 2 year degree</p> <p>Bachelor – 4 year degree</p> <p>Masters or post-graduate degree</p> <p>Doctorate – PhD.</p>	<p>Father</p> <p>Yes / No</p> <p>If yes, what was the highest degree attained?</p> <p>Associate – 2 year degree</p> <p>Bachelor – 4 year degree</p> <p>Masters or post-graduate degree</p> <p>Doctorate – PhD.</p>	<p>Sibling (Sister or Brother)</p> <p>Yes / No</p> <p>If yes, what was the highest degree attained?</p> <p>Associate – 2 year degree</p> <p>Bachelor – 4 year degree</p> <p>Masters or post-graduate degree</p> <p>Doctorate – PhD.</p>			
I certify that the information provided above is complete and that the submission of the false information is grounds for denial of the application and/or withdrawal of admission. I understand that the school and college expect a high standard of conduct and academic performance for students, and if accepted for admission to the EDGE, my child and I will abide by all rules, regulations, and student/parent expectations set forth in this application by the school district and Tulsa Community College.						
Parent / Guardian Signature (s):		Student Signature:				

PARENT / GUARDIAN SECTION				
Student Name	Last	First		Middle
Date of Birth				
Gender				
Address	Street number and name	Apartment #	City	Zip code
Home Phone				
Parent/Guardian Name	Last	First		Middle
Parent / Guardian Mobile Phone				
Parent / Guardian Mobile Phone				
Parent / Guardian Email Address				
Parent / Guardian Email Address				
Is the student registered with Oklahoma Promise? <b>CIRCLE YES OR NO</b>	Yes	No	If no, please contact your public school counselor for information or assistance. For information on Oklahoma Promise, click here <a href="https://www.okhighered.org/okpromise/">https://www.okhighered.org/okpromise/</a>	

I certify that the information provided above is complete and that the submission of the false information is grounds for denial of the application and/or withdrawal of admission. I understand that the school and college expect a high standard of conduct and academic performance for students, and if accepted for admission to the EDGE, my child and I will abide by all rules, regulations, and student/parent expectations set forth in this application by the school district and Tulsa Community College.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### EDGE Eligibility and the Selection Process

To be considered for the EDGE Pilot, students must meet the following initial criteria:

The applicant must be currently enrolled in the eighth grade.

The applicant must meet ALL district requirements for promotion to ninth grade.

The applicant and his/her parent must attend parent/student information and orientation meetings.

The applicant must independently complete the one or two admission essays as part of this application.

The applicant must obtain one or two letters of recommendation, one from someone within the eighth-grade staff (e.g., a teacher or counselor) and one from someone (not a family member) outside the school is optional or a second letter may come from another 8th grade teacher.

The applicants are expected to attend all pre-cohort activities, which includes Summer Bridge Programs.

- o Parents and student must commit to attend all EDGE events and classes.
- o Eighth-grade bridge program is a two-day program. The district will provide transportation to the college campus.
- o 9th grade summer bridge is a three-day program. The district will provide transportation to the college campus.
- o Monthly student engagement activities will occur regularly. The district will provide transportation to the college campus when events are at TCC campuses.
- o Additionally, the student may be advised by the district to attend high school course-specific or language-focused summer school sessions that may last up to two months.

The applicant will enroll in the full 9th grade preparatory courses prepared by the district for cohort enrollment. This may require a schedule change and / or dropping some electives.

## Selection Process

The selection committee will evaluate the overall application and assess the essays. When the committee selects the cohort, they will also identify a ten-student waitlist if the applicants exceed the maximum cohort size.

Waitlisted students may discuss the opportunity to enroll in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade preparatory course at the high school.

Waitlisted students may be notified about EDGE selection at the following times:

- o August (9<sup>th</sup> grade, student must enroll in 9<sup>th</sup> grade preparatory curriculum)
- o January (9<sup>th</sup> grade, student must enroll in 9<sup>th</sup> grade preparatory curriculum and may have additional make-up work if not enrolled in fall)
- o May (9<sup>th</sup> grade, student must have participated in 9<sup>th</sup> grade preparatory curriculum)
- o August (10<sup>th</sup> grade, student must have participated in 9<sup>th</sup> grade preparatory year)

After August 10<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, eligible waitlisted sophomore students who are not added to the EDGE cohort may start Dual Credit to College Degree in June.

Adding to the cohort:

The applicant who moves into the EDGE participating district must be moving in from outside of the TCC service area.

The cohort must be under maximum size.

The final date for an incoming student to the district to apply is January 15<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

The committee will review the application and return a decision within 48 hours.

The student will enroll in all 9<sup>th</sup> grade preparatory courses with the cohort for the entirety of the spring semester. This will require high school schedule changes.

The student may be required to do additional work for the Introduction to College course missed in the fall semester.

This application and selection are the initial acceptance into the EDGE pre-cohort for the Freshman preparatory school year. All students must meet college admission standards by May of his/her freshmen year and must meet course prerequisites to enroll in TCC classes.

My signature indicates that I have read and understand the criteria and process that will be used to select the EDGE students.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The applicant should obtain one letter of recommendation from someone within the eighth-grade staff (e.g., a teacher or counselor). A second letter of recommendation from someone (not a family member) outside the school is optional or a second letter may come from another 8th grade teacher. Please place the recommendation(s) in one envelope. On the outside of the envelope please write: "EDGE Recommendations for \_\_\_\_\_" and include the 8th grader's name. Leave this envelope with your 8th grade school counselor or the appropriate school representative.

## Essay

Instructions: We want to learn more about you, please write one essay in English for the EDGE application. Each applicant will choose from the prompts below.

Address the prompt in approximately 500 words (not fewer than 450).

Avoid grammatical and spelling errors as well as redundancy.

Complete all responses independently—no help from parents or teachers.

### **If you are submitting the application on paper:**

- o Attach to the back of the application before submitting
- o Write in print letters in black or blue ink.
- o Write only on one side of the notebook paper.
- o Observe the margins of the notebook paper.
- o Staple your application to your essay.

- o Do not use folders or report covers.

**Choose one prompt from the list below:**

1. Discuss what you feel will be your biggest challenge in participating in the EDGE program in high school.
2. Explain what you think the following quote means and how it might apply to your life now or in the future. "It's easier to build strong children than it is to repair broken men." Fredrick Douglass
3. Describe a real-world problem you have encountered or witnessed and propose a means of improving the problem.
4. Define what leadership means to you and give examples, positive or negative, from your life. Your essay should demonstrate what you learned about leadership and how you hope to use those lessons.

### EDGE Student and Parent Expectations and Acknowledgement

Your initial for each statement indicates that you have read and understood the specific challenges and requirements of students in the Early College Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that there are a limited number of seats available and a lottery process will be used if the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of seats available in the Program. If not invited, a waitlist will be maintained. Should Program vacancies arise after the original invitation, parents/guardians will be contacted in order of the waitlist number, and applicants will be given the opportunity to accept a seat in the EDGE Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I will be enrolled in college preparatory curriculum with other early college students and will follow a fixed sequence of courses to earn my associate degree and my high school diploma by the end of the student's senior year.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that participating in co-curricular activities, fine arts, and athletics may be difficult because of the increased academic demands and the fixed course sequence, and that the expectation is that the student's academic schedule in the EDGE Program will take priority.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I drop, withdraw, or fail to pass a course on the degree plan, I will be responsible to pay all costs associated with retaking the course.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if a student takes a course(s) out-of-sequence (out of cohort), I will be responsible to pay all costs associated with the course(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I must meet all EDGE Program requirements in order to be invited to participate and that continued participation is dependent on continuing to meet those requirements including being on track for high school graduation and meeting Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education admission and enrollment requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I must maintain passing grades in all high school classes and a 2.0 college GPA, per Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, policy 3.10.

Academic Year 2021-2022

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I will be required to attend weekly tutoring session provided by the high school.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the program will follow the Tulsa Community College academic calendar, which may include attendance when high school classes are not in session including summer school.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will comply with all High School regulations when taking high school courses and with TCC policies when in TCC classes. See Student Handbook for High School and Student Handbook for TCC. Violations may result in dismissal from the Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand college professors do not typically distinguish between excused and unexcused absences and, therefore, the student may need to limit my extracurricular activities and/or work hours.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will follow the course policies and agenda explained in each course syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the high school will provide transportation to the college campus for cohort events and college courses from August to May and the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade summer bridges in July. Summer college courses may require personal transportation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I will need to dedicate a minimum of two hours study time for every one hour of in-class time, which means he/she will be required to devote considerable time outside of class to complete homework and to study.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that college grades are based primarily on how a student demonstrates learning on a few key assignments and that A's and B's indicate an exceptionally high level of learning.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that professors have the academic freedom to create curricula and to determine standards for their classes, which means that course content may include sensitive political, cultural, and religious topics as well as controversial texts (readings, artwork, films, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) obligates TCC to protect the privacy rights of college students, which means professors will not communicate college records, including grades and attendance, with parents.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I will handle all matters pertaining to college classes on my own but may seek guidance from the high school administration about college processes and policies and about communicating with professors.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I have concerns about my TCC classes, I will follow the TCC Student Handbook and the course syllabus, which explains how I can address my concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I chooses not to continue or do not meet the criteria to be eligible to continue, I will complete an exit survey.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the college and the high school will be sharing student records.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that this degree transfers to several universities. I will work closely with a TCC academic advisor each semester to make certain that I am enrolled in the correct courses for a seamless transfer process. I will begin a dialogue with my intended transfer school as early as possible. I will attend student advising events with TCC academic advisors and advisors from selected four-year institutions to streamline the transfer process. It is my responsibility to ensure that courses transfer to the four-year institution.

My signature indicates that I am prepared to be academically challenged and that we will follow the guidelines established here.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## INFORMED CONSENT

Project Title: Early College High School Pilot Research and Program Evaluation

Investigator(s): Jason Featherngill, Educational Researcher, TCC

IRB Study Number: 21-06

### Introduction

This document is called an “Informed Consent Form.” It gives you information about the study, its risks, possible benefits, your rights if you agree to participate, and information about you and your child that will be shared with others connected with the study. It is important for you to understand that you and your child’s participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Opting out of the study does not opt your student out of the EDGE program or excuse the student from any coursework requirements. You may choose not to participate or withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty, loss of benefits, or loss of legal rights to which you are entitled. Before you decide, you should know why the research is being done and what it involves. Please read this form carefully and take your time to decide. Ask the investigator any questions you may have. You may take an unsigned copy of this form home with you to read again. You have been selected to participate in this research study because one or more of your children are currently participating in the EDGE Program which is a partnership between their high school and Tulsa Community College.

Why is this study being done?

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the EDGE program and partnership between Tulsa Community College and the high school. This evaluation will lead to recommendations to improve the EDGE program. Early College High School partnerships seek to reduce barriers to college access, increase college readiness, and offer rigorous instruction with wrap-around academic and social support services to help students succeed. This study examines if these goals are being met.

How long will the research last?

We expect that you will be in this research study for approximately four years, from when your student is selected into the program in 8th grade through graduation in 12th grade. Your child’s educational data will be examined. You and your child may be asked to complete a survey at least once a year. Surveys should take less than 10 minutes to complete. You may also be asked to participate in a focus group with other parents/ guardians; this may take up to 1 hour. Your student may also be asked to participate in a focus group with other students, which could take up to 1 hour. You will be asked to sign this form each year to renew your willingness to participate.

What will I do if I choose to be in this study?

You and your child will be asked to answer questions or provide feedback related to your involvement in the EDGE program.

What happens if I do not want to be in this research?

Participation is voluntary. You do not have to participate, or you can choose to participate in some aspects (surveys, for example) and not others (such as focus groups). If you choose to answer survey questions, please feel free to skip any questions you do not wish to answer. Opting out of the study does not withdraw your student from the EDGE program. You may choose not to participate or withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty, loss of benefits, or loss of legal rights to which you are entitled.

What are the possible risks or discomforts?

Although your participation in this study does not involve any physical or emotional risk to you beyond that of everyday life, some questions you may be asked could be awkward. Please feel free to skip any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.

What are the possible benefits for others or me?

You are not likely to have any direct benefit from participating in this research study. This study is designed to evaluate the EDGE program. The study results will be used to improve the program which could help your child or other people in the future.

How will you protect the information you collect about me, and how will that information be shared?

Results of this study may be used in publications and presentations. You and your child's data will be handled confidentially. If results of this study are published or presented, individual names and other personally identifiable information will not be used. To minimize the risks to confidentiality, we will collect and store data in accordance with FERPA and Tulsa Community College stated Institutional Review Board policies. We may share anonymous data we collect from you for use in future research studies or with other researchers. If we share the data that we collect about you, we will remove any information that could identify you before we share it.

Will I be compensated for my participation?

Participation in this study will involve no cost to you. You will not be paid for participating in this study.

Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns about this research study?

If you have questions, you are free to ask them now. If you have questions later, you may contact the researcher at:

Jason Featherngill, MPA  
Educational Researcher  
Institutional Research and Assessment  
Tulsa Community College  
6111 East Skelly Drive: Suite 518

Academic Year 2021-2022

Tulsa, OK 74135

918-595-7963

[Jason.featherngill@tulsacc.edu](mailto:Jason.featherngill@tulsacc.edu)

You can contact the IRB at [irb@tulsacc.edu](mailto:irb@tulsacc.edu). You are encouraged to contact the IRB if:

- o Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- o You cannot reach the research team.
- o You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
- o You have questions about your rights as a research participant.
- o You want to get information or provide input about this research.

### Participant's Consent Agreement to take part in the study

I have read this information. It has been written in a language that I can read and understand. All my current questions about the study, possible risks and side effects have been answered to my satisfaction. I acknowledge I am allowed to ask more questions at any time. I voluntarily consent to my and my child's participation in this study, but realize I can remove my consent at any time by contacting the researcher or the IRB listed above. I understand that I have or will receive a signed copy of this consent form. I understand that I may withdraw from this study at any time without penalty (e.g., class standing, grades, employment, etc.) or loss of benefits.

If you agree to take part in this study, please fill out the information and sign below.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Assent Form

Project Title: Early College High School Pilot Research and Program Evaluation

My name is Jason Featherngill. I work at Tulsa Community College. I am inviting you to participate in a research study about the EDGE program. Your parent/ guardian knows we are talking with you about the study. This form will tell you about the study to help you decide whether or not you want to take part in it.

#### **What is the key information about this research study?**

The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether you want to be a part of this study. Information that is more detailed is listed later on in this form. The purpose of this study is to

evaluate the EDGE program. You will be asked to complete a survey and may also be asked to participate in a focus group with other students. We expect that you will be in this research study the whole time you are in the EDGE program. The primary risk of participation is being asked questions that you might not want to answer, but you don't have to answer anything you do not want to. The main benefit is the results from this study will be used to help improve the EDGE program.

**Why is this study being done?**

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the EDGE program and partnership between Tulsa Community College and your high school. You are being asked to take part in the study because you have been accepted into the EDGE program.

**What do I need to do?**

If you decide to be in the study, I will ask you to complete a survey once each school year that should take less than 10 minutes to complete. You may also be asked to participate in focus groups with other students, which could take up to 1 hour each.

**What are the benefits to me?**

Taking part in this study may not have direct benefits to you, but it will help us evaluate the EDGE program. The study results will be used to improve the program for all students.

**Are there any risks to me if I decide to be involved in this study?**

There are no foreseeable risks, however some questions you may be asked could be awkward. Please feel free to skip any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.

**How will my information be protected?**

Your responses will be confidential. If you choose to participate in a focus group complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, as other students will also be in the group. The results of this study may be used in reports, presentations, or publications, but your name will not be used. Results will only be shared without your identifying information. Additionally, data will be stored on a password protected shared drive, where it can only be accessed by the researchers in Tulsa Community College's Institutional Research and Assessment department.

**Do I have to be in the study?**

No, you don't. The choice is yours. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary; however, you still will be required to complete your coursework. No one will get angry or upset if you don't want to do this. And you can change your mind anytime if you decide you don't want to be in the study anymore.

**What if I have questions?**

If you have questions about the study, you can ask me now or anytime during the study. You can also call me at 918-595-7963 or e-mail me at [Jason.featherngill@tulsacc.edu](mailto:Jason.featherngill@tulsacc.edu). If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this research or if you feel you have been placed at risk, you can contact the IRB Office at [irb@tulsacc.edu](mailto:irb@tulsacc.edu). You will receive a copy of this form for your records.

Signing below means that you have read this form and that you are currently willing to be in this study. You will be asked to sign this form each year to renew your willingness to participate.

If you agree to take part in this study, please fill out the information and sign below.

Student Participant \_\_\_\_\_

Student Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_