

TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Information on the EDGE (Earn a degree, graduate early) Program at Memorial High School and McLain High School

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**Graduating from high school with both a diploma and a FREE college degree?
If you're currently in 8th grade, that could be your future!**



In the next 5-10 minutes, you'll learn everything you need to know about the **EDGE (Earn a degree, graduate early) High School program at McLain High School and Memorial High School**

- 🎓 What is EDGE-the Early College High School Program?
- 🎓 Where is it offered?
- 🎓 Who can apply, and how does the application work?
- 🎓 Answers to frequently asked questions... and who to ask if you have more questions





Where is this program offered?



Where is the **EDGE (Earn a degree, graduate early)** program?

In the 2024-25 School Year, the program will be at two schools:

McLain High School

 4929 N Peoria Ave
 mclain.tulsaschools.org

Memorial High School

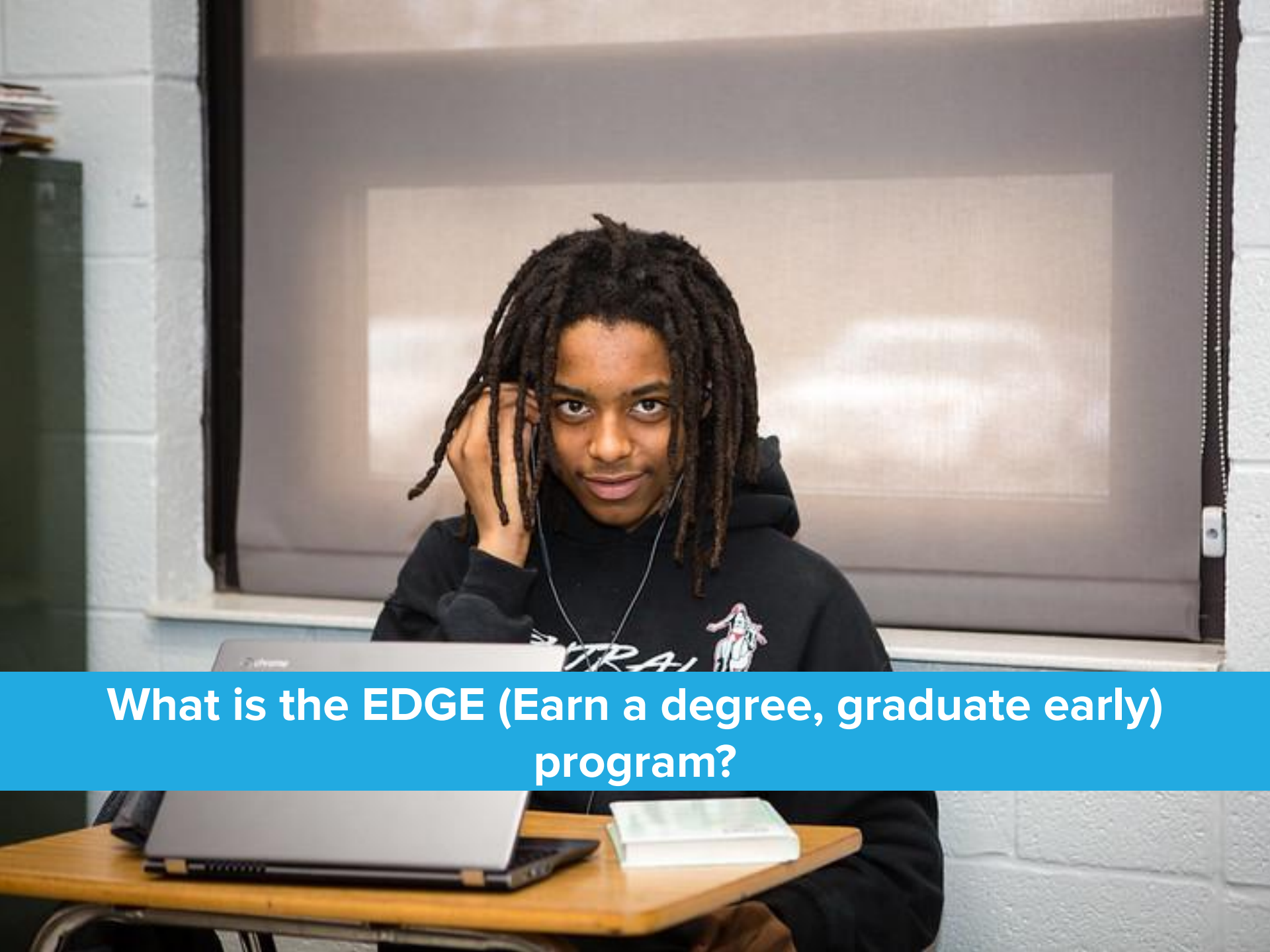
 5840 S Hudson Ave
 memorial.tulsaschools.org



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What is the EDGE (Earn a degree, graduate early) program?

What is **EDGE** - the Earn a Degree, Graduate early Program?

EDGE which stands for Earn a Degree, Graduate Early is an exciting new program for high school students in Tulsa Public Schools.

🎓 Students are enrolled both at their high school (McLain High School or Memorial High School) and at Tulsa Community College

🎓 Students are part of a cohort and receive lots of additional supports (tutoring, college-prep workshops, fun events with their cohort, etc.)

🎓 After a college-prep year in 9th grade, students start taking classes at Tulsa Community College in 10th grade

🎓 Students graduate with both a high school diploma and a college degree from Tulsa Community College!

🎓 Most importantly, this program is free to students!

Wait, what....? A free college degree?

Yes, really!

Costs are shared between Tulsa Community College, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and Tulsa Public Schools. That includes tuition, fees, textbooks and transportation.

The program is free to students and families.

Even better!

EDGE will not affect your OK Promise scholarship after high school graduation. It still pays in full.

What will my high school experience look like?

Students who participate in this program get a high school and a college experience at the same time. Some of the things that you'll experience are:

- 🎓 Monthly cohort events with other students in the Program
- 🎓 An introduction to college 9th grade elective class
- 🎓 Summer bridge programs
- 🎓 9th grade college-prep year
- 🎓 Access to college facilities
- 🎓 TCC courses beginning in the 10th grade (students will share their time between their high school and TCC)

How is this different from Dual Credit / Concurrent?

EDGE: Earn a degree, graduate early	Concurrent Enrollment
Available at Memorial High School and McLain High School	Available at every Tulsa Public Schools high school
Full degree program – participants graduate with a Liberal Arts Associate’s degree from Tulsa Community College	Not a degree program – students enroll in individual college courses that can count towards a college degree after high school and high school graduation requirements
Cohort-based	Individual-based
Students go through a college-prep year in 9th grade and start taking college classes in 10th grade	Students start taking college courses in 11th grade
Free!	Students pay some fees
Required extra tutoring, advising, and college connection experiences	Extra tutoring has to be scheduled by student



Who can apply, and how does the application work?



Who is eligible to apply for this program?

All current 8th graders are eligible to apply – even if you don't live in the Memorial or McLain feeder patterns.

The application consists of two required parts:

1. Go to tulsaschools.org/enroll and fill out an enrollment form

Select either "Memorial High School Early College" or "McLain High School Early College" as one or two of your six choices on the form.

2. Go to tulsaschools.org/earlycollege and fill out an **EDGE (Earn a degree, graduate early) application (in either English or Spanish)**

You can also pick up a paper copy from Monroe Middle School, Memorial Middle School, McLain High School or Memorial High School.

Here's what you'll need for the application – be sure to start early because it will take some work!

- ✓ Fill out the **application form** which asks for things like your name, address & student ID number

There are a lot of checkboxes, so make sure to take your time and read the application carefully. Parents or guardians should fill this out with their students..

- ✓ One **letter of recommendation** / **teacher recommendation form**

You will submit this with your application (more information on the next slide)

- ✓ One 500 word **application essay**

You'll submit the application essay as part of the application form.

Some more information about the letters of recommendation

You need one letter:

1. From someone within the eighth-grade staff (a teacher or counselor, for example)
2. Another optional letter from someone outside the school (not a family member). This could be a neighbor, a minister or a family friend, for example.

Every letter of recommendation is different – there is no standard format, minimum length or other requirements. Letters can be typed or written by hand.

This is likely the first time that a student has needed a letter of recommendation so if you have any questions at all, please reach out to your counselor.

****Feel free to complete the [Teacher Recommendation form](#) instead.**

This is likely your first time needing a letter of recommendation – here is some advice!

- Ask early – the adults writing the letter will need some time to write the letter, and get it back to you.
- If the adults writing your letters ask you about it, here are some good things to include
 - How they know you
 - What they think your strengths are
 - Why they think you can succeed in this program
- If you have any questions at all, please reach out to your counselor.

You have more questions? No problem, here's how you get them answered

🎓 Take a look at tulsaschools.org/earlycollege

🎓 If you can't find an answer to your question, send Ryan Noshay an email at noshary@tulsaschools.org

🎓 If you have school-specific questions, contact

- Dr. Elfreda Austin (McLain High School) at austiel@tulsaschools.org
- Michelle Brown (Memorial High School) at brownmi4@tulsaschools.org
- Melissa Steadley (Tulsa Community College) at lissa.steadley@tulsacc.edu

How to submit the letters of recommendation

There are three ways to submit the letters of recommendation.

1. Ideally, you'll upload the letters as part of your online application.
2. If that is not possible, please place both recommendations in one envelope. On the outside of the envelope please write: "EDGE (Earn a degree, graduate early) Recommendations for [student name]". Leave this envelope with your 8th grade school counselor or the appropriate school representative.
3. The adult writing the letter can also send it to noshary@tulsaschools.org

If you have any trouble, please reach out to Ryan Noshay at noshary@tulsaschools.org.

Some additional information about the application essay

You need to write one 500 word **application essay**

Why should you be chosen to be a part of EDGE (Earn a Degree, Graduate Early)? In your answer, include examples of your past accomplishments, discuss your goals, and explain why you want to be part of the program. You'll submit the application essay as part of the application form.

Although your essay must be completed fully by you (your own words), you can (and you should!) ask your counselor for support and feedback!

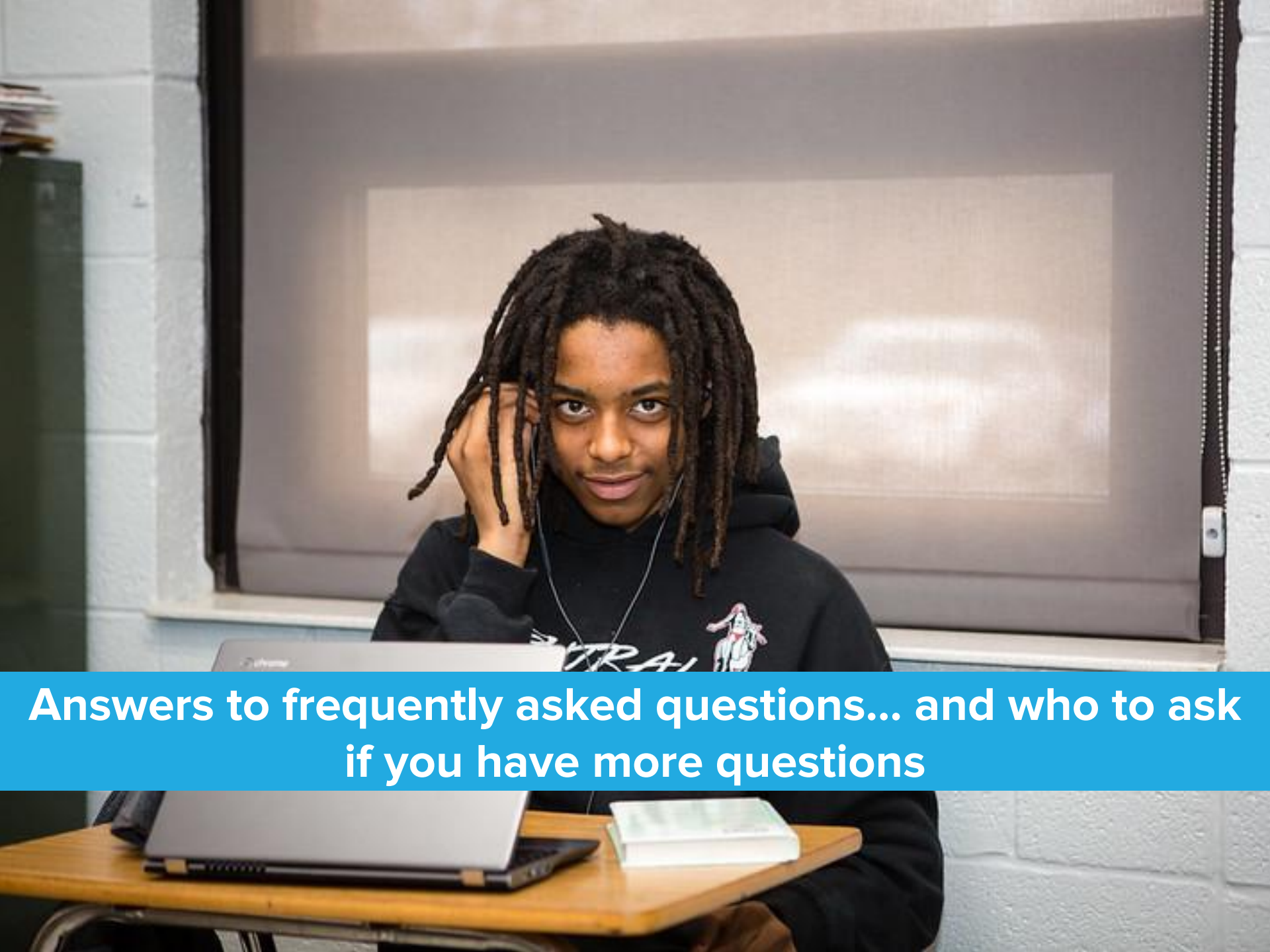
What happens after you submit your application?

1. A selection committee will review each application in a fair, double-blind process.
2. By the third week of May, all applicants will be notified about the committee decision.
3. In June, there is a big announcement!
4. In August, there is a two-day summer program for all selected students

Once selected, are there any criteria to stay in the program?

If you are admitted to the program, there are two criteria to remain in the program:

- Admitted students must attend Memorial High School or McLain High School and maintain a **3.0 unweighted high school GPA** in 9th grade
- Throughout grades 10 – 12, students must maintain a **college GPA of 2.0** and must be on-track for high school graduation



**Answers to frequently asked questions... and who to ask
if you have more questions**

Can I still participate in athletics?

Yes, you will still be able to participate in athletics. However, the EDGE Program is more academically challenging and time-intensive than being a regular high school student. Experience has shown that many students are involved in 9th grade and 10th grade athletics but many opt out by 11th grade.

I'm already in 9th grade. Can I still participate in the program?

No. Unfortunately, this program is only open to students who are currently in 8th grade.

What do I need to write my admission essay about?

You can find the criteria for the admission essay within the application itself. You will be asked to write about the following:

- Why should you be chosen to be a part of EDGE (Earn a Degree, Graduate Early)? In your answer, include examples of your past accomplishments, discuss your goals, and explain why you want to be part of the program. You'll submit the application essay as part of the application form.

Is participation in the EDGE (Earn a degree, graduate early) program really free of charge to students and families?

Yes!

Is this program open to undocumented students?

Yes. If you are undocumented, you can still participate in this program.

Where will classes take place?

In 9th grade, students will take courses at their high school (Memorial High School or McLain High School).

In 10th, 11th and 12th grades, high school classes will take place at the high school and college courses at the Tulsa Community College Northeast campus.

Will transportation be provided?

Yes, transportation between the high school and the Tulsa Community College will be provided by the district for classes, summer events, and cohort activities.

What college degree am I earning?

Students will graduate from Tulsa Community College with an Associate of Arts, Liberal Arts degree. This two-year degree is 61 credit hours and has been chosen because of the ability to tailor required courses to each student's goals.

You will work with college staff beginning in the 9th grade to explore careers and then chose a college focus. Within the Liberal Arts plan, you will enroll in courses that will transfer in your chosen major to your chosen university!

When's the deadline again?

February 12th. Be sure to start your application at least two weeks before you plan to submit it because it takes time, and you will need one letter of recommendation.