

### **What is an umbrella school?**

Umbrella schools are classified as private schools in the state of Florida. They are also sometimes referred to as cover schools or 600 schools. These schools are typically non-campus based private schools and serve homeschool families. Umbrella school students are classified as **private school** students even though the students are completing a parent-led home education program.

### **What is the benefit of enrolling in an umbrella school?**

Since students enrolled in an umbrella school are technically private school students, there is no need for parents to complete an annual evaluation or keep a portfolio of student work. Umbrella school students do not need to send in a Letter of Intent to their local school district to begin homeschooling. Umbrella schools also offer services and consultation guidance for homeschool families such as curriculum consultation, transcripts, diplomas, and other student records.

### **What is required to enroll in an umbrella school?**

There are specific student records required to enroll in private schools in the state of Florida. All students enrolling in private school must have a Student Health Examination form, HRS-H Form 3040 (or waiver), Certificate of Immunization, HRS Form 680 (or waiver), and a birth certificate submitted to complete enrollment. These records are to be maintained by the private school for all enrolled students.

Umbrella school students who were enrolled in a public school must **withdraw** from their public school to enroll in Kingsbridge Scholars Umbrella School. Students who were registered with their local school district in a home education program via a Letter of Intent (LOI) must **terminate** their home education program and submit a final evaluation to enroll in any private umbrella school.

MyKBS is our secure Student Information System (SIS) for Kingsbridge Scholars to maintain all student records. MyKBS is an application maintained on Kingsbridge Scholars' own internal servers, not a third-party application, and all student records are **only** accessible by the student's parents and KBS administrators. No student information is sent to the state or to the local school district.

### **What information is reported to the state or local school district?**

Every private school in the state of Florida is required to submit an annual report verifying student enrollment and attendance compliance. This report is completed online and a notarized copy is mailed to the state Department of Education. This report has basic information about the school (including the school address, administrators, and a student enrollment count). No personal information or individual student records for any student are submitted to the state or to the local school district.

### **Are there any other requirements for umbrella school students?**

No, umbrella school students do not have to submit annual evaluations or test scores to their local school district. Umbrella school students are not registered as home education students with their local school district and do not have to send any information to the school district at all. It is highly encouraged that parents keep some samples of their student's schoolwork on hand, but a portfolio is not required.

### **What if my child receives the Family Empowerment Scholarship-Unique Abilities (FES-UA)?**

Students who have the FES-UA scholarship are eligible to enroll with an umbrella school, which takes the place of the annual evaluation and portfolio required for home education students. Kingsbridge Scholars standalone courses are eligible for reimbursement, and we are a direct pay provider for courses as part-time tutoring. Umbrella school fees and services are not eligible for reimbursement at this time.

### **What about Personalized Education Program (PEP) students?**

Students enrolled in the PEP scholarship program are NOT eligible to enroll in an umbrella school. PEP students must register with their Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO) to participate in the PEP scholarship and these students are not considered home education students or private school students by law in Florida. PEP students have no need to enroll in an umbrella school. However, PEP students CAN take Kingsbridge Scholars standalone courses and we are a direct pay provider for Step Up for Students. PEP students taking standalone courses can be reimbursed for these courses under part-time tutoring.

### **Why would I NOT want to enroll in an umbrella school?**

Enrolling in an umbrella school is a personal choice for all homeschool families. Students who want to participate in sports at their local zoned schools may want to register with their county school district as home education students instead of an umbrella school. High school students who want to complete Dual Enrollment courses may also choose to register with their county school district as home education students as well if their umbrella school does not offer a DE agreement with their chosen school.

For some families, the umbrella school option provides the support and services they need, and it removes the hassle of annual evaluations and portfolio record-keeping. For other families, the county registered home education option is best for their student's needs, and they don't mind completing annual evaluations and keeping portfolios. In the end, enrolling in an umbrella school as a private school student or registering with their county school district as a home education student is based entirely on personal preference and the best option for each homeschool family depends on their individual student's goals and needs.



## Umbrella School Fact Sheet

**NOTE:** Kingsbridge Scholars will be adding an articulation agreement with Seminole State College in the near future and KBS is open to completing articulation agreements with other state colleges and universities, but the availability of Dual Enrollment is dependent on each individual umbrella school developing articulation agreements with each college and university.