

Sara Furlong, Parent, HIVE Cooperative

"I have decided to homeschool my daughter this year because I deeply disagree with the direction public education is headed and felt my voice was not being heard by school administration, our Board of Education, or politicians. Common Core standardized tests are being used to unfairly evaluate our teachers and schools and, because of this, they are causing pressures that are changing our educational environments and curricula -- usually for the worse. Most important, all of these things are having a direct impact on our children's learning, development, and well-being. The decision to homeschool causes financial strain on our family, but I won't let my children be a part of this system. So I started a homeschooling cooperative in my district and enrolled 18 children (www.hivecooperative.com). I plan to help build options for homeschoolers in my community as I expect there to be a sharp rise in homeschooling numbers as people become more aware of the realities in our schools."