Core Vocabulary

*What is it?*

* School wide, classroom based initiative.
* We will focus on 36 core words during the 2016-2017 school year.
	+ *These are based on research done by UNC Chapel Hill Team and have been determined to be necessary to successfully communication in academic and social settings.*
* Each month, we will pick 4 words that will be highlighted in classroom instruction and throughout the day.
* Lessons are designed to focus on the selected core words during whole group instruction,
* Staff will also focus on modeling these words using student specific devices.
* Large vocabulary boards will be posted throughout the school environment for use by staff and students.

*Why are we doing it?*

* Approximately 80% of the words we use every day come from a set of 200 core words (for example, want, listen, more, get, go, see, help, what, where, stop, why, etc.).
* These words have a high impact to students who use augmentative and alternative communication strategies.
* Recent studies have found that individuals using AAC strategies used core vocabulary and single words to convey their messages 90-95% of the time.
* These same words are also used in literacy instruction and called sight words.