A photograph of a bright red apple with a green stem, resting on a stack of several books. The books have blue and white covers. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

**Reading:
Not Just for Girls Anymore!
Belcher Elementary School**

**Reading Leadership
Conference
2007**

A red apple is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image, resting on a stack of books. The books are stacked vertically, with a blue book on top and a white book below it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white. The text is overlaid on the image, with the main question centered at the top and a list of bullet points on the left side.

What would you say if I could offer this to your daughter?

- Adopt More Leadership Roles
- Become More Engaged in Math and Science
- Improved Self-Esteem
- Quieter Environment/Reducing Distractions
- Improved social-emotional development

A red apple is positioned on top of a stack of books. The apple is the central focus, with its stem pointing upwards. The books below it are stacked, with the top one being a light blue color. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

What would you say if I could offer this to your son?

- More opportunities for movement throughout the day
- Better social development
- Targeted reading support
- An environment conducive to a boy's learning

Intended Results

A red apple is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide, resting on a stack of books. The apple is bright red with a small green stem. The books below it are stacked, with the top one having a light blue cover. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

- Eliminate or decrease the achievement gap between males and females
- Eliminate or decrease the achievement gap between all sub groups
- Increase the use of brain based research practices in the classrooms

“The Learning Connection”

Embracing and recognizing that differences exist between how girls and boys learn...

- One 2nd Grade All-Girl Classroom
- One 2nd Grade All-Boy Classroom
- One 3rd Grade All-Girl Classroom
- One 3rd Grade All-Boy Classroom

A red apple is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image, resting on a stack of books. The apple is bright red with some yellow highlights, and its stem is visible at the top. The books below it are stacked, with the top one having a blue cover. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

Woodward Avenue Elementary School, Deland Florida- A Gender Based School

4th Grade Reading and Mathematics

Boys and girls in gender based classrooms =

- ☑ 10% points higher in Reading
- ☑ 20% points higher than traditional classrooms
- ★ 4th grade boys in the gender based classroom outperformed all other sub groups!!!

A red apple is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image, resting on a light-colored wooden surface. A blue ruler is placed horizontally below the apple, extending from the center towards the right edge. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white. The text 'Quotes we heard from children in gender classrooms...' is overlaid on the left side of the image in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

Quotes we heard from children in gender classrooms...

- “Sometimes we like to take our shoes off when we read and if there were boys we couldn’t because they have stinky feet.”
- “Girls tattle tale on us too much.”
- “Boys throw milk cartons at us and we always have to wait for them.”
- “Sometimes girls are distracting because they are cute.”

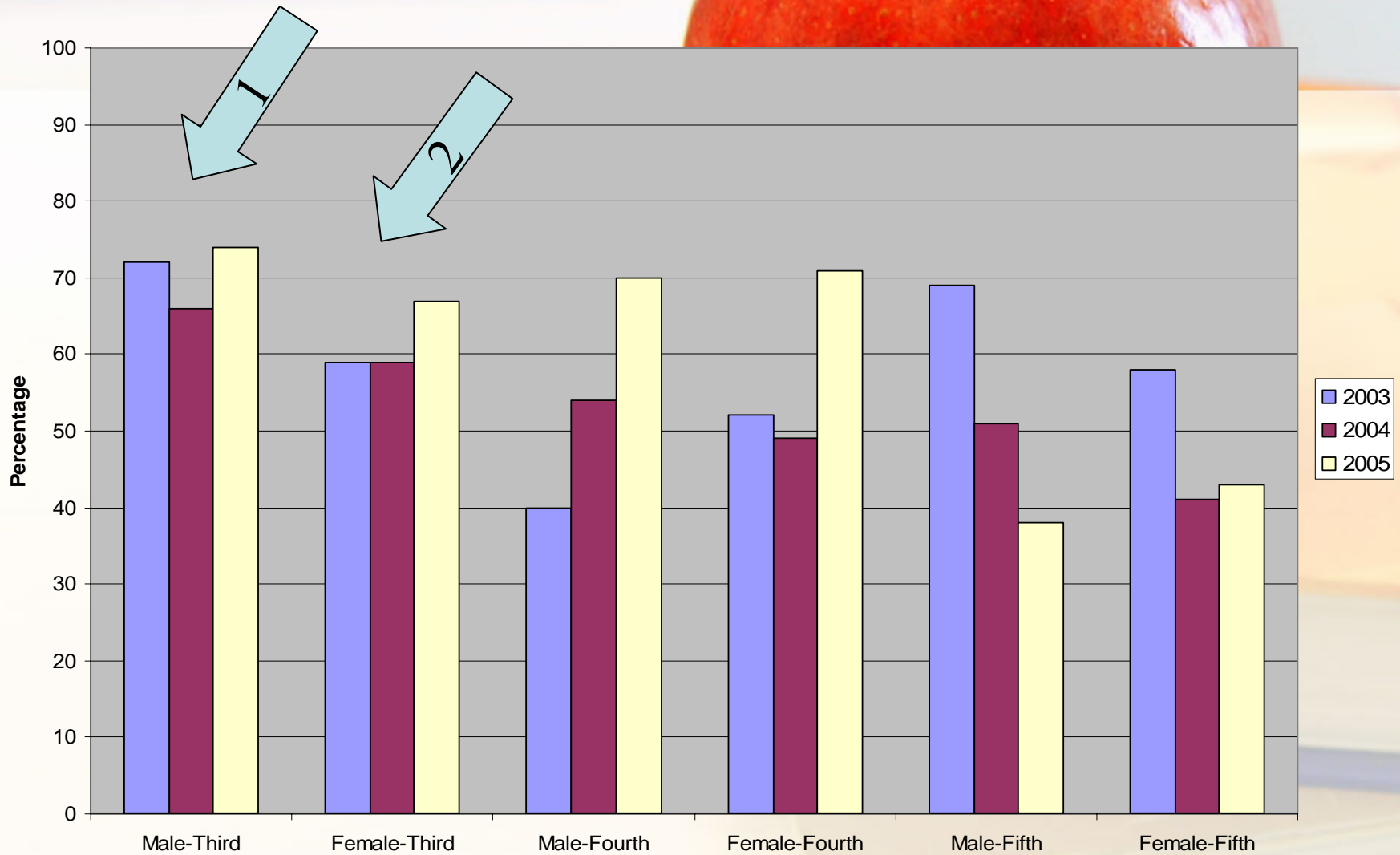
Foster Development

A red apple is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide, resting on a stack of several books. The books are stacked vertically, with the top one being a light blue color. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

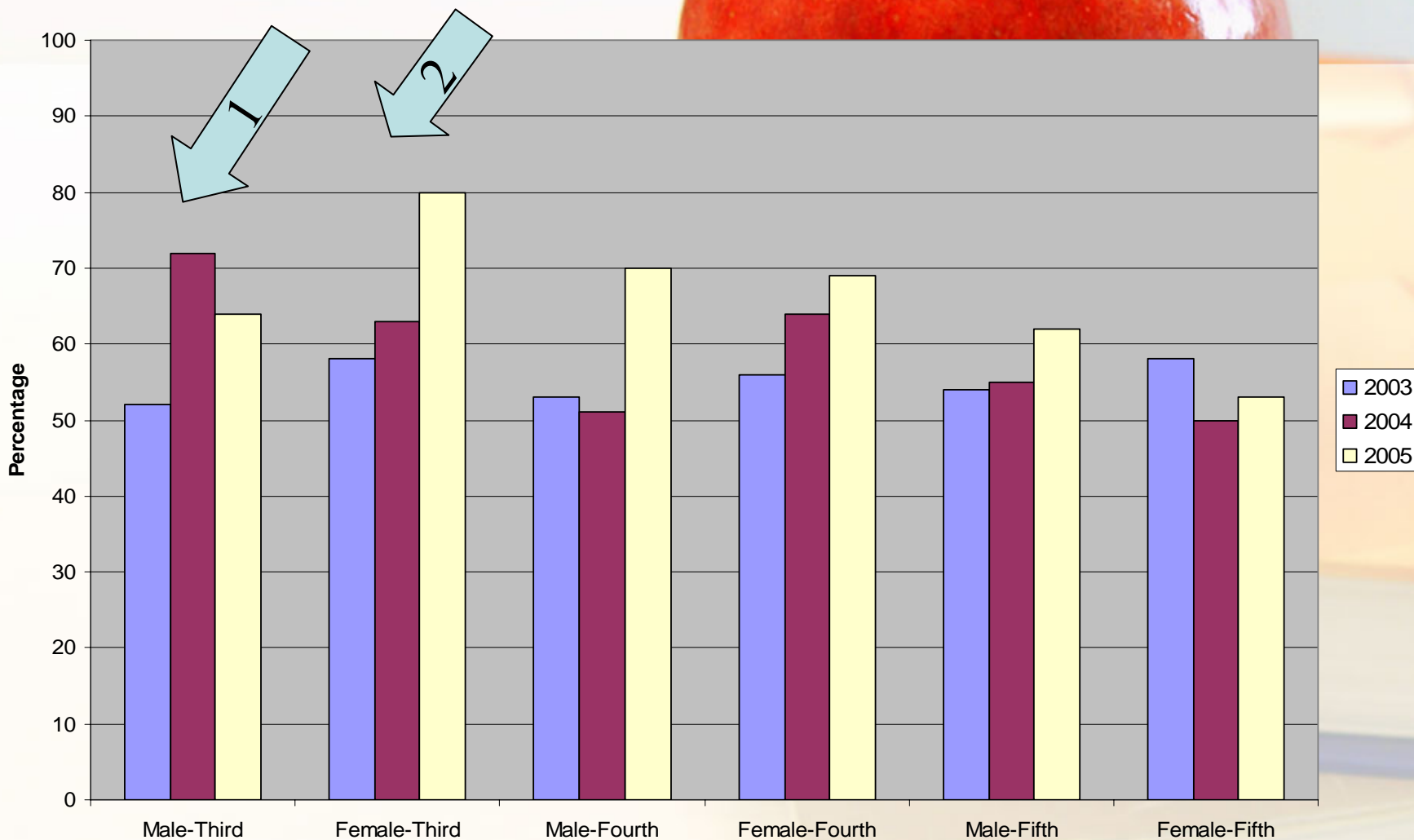
"We believe the stereotypes that boys can be self-reliant, that boys don't cry," "And the fact is, all young children -- boys or girls -- and all adolescents do need a lot of support and a lot of nurturing from their parents and their teachers and the whole community."

Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States,
National Public Radio, Feb. 2006

Third-Fourth-Fifth Grade Math FCAT Scores % Scoring Level 3 or Above



Third-Fourth-Fifth Grade Reading FCAT Scores % Scoring Level 3 or Above



Legal Regulations

A red apple is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide, resting on a stack of books. The books are stacked vertically, with the top one having a blue cover and the bottom one having a white cover. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

- A provision in the No Child Left Behind Act, that allows Gender Based schools and classrooms.
- Legal Challenges settled in 2006 regarding conflict with Title IX.

Timeline - Original



March 2006	Presentation to Faculty Meeting Interested parties must submit email of interest by March 10 th , 2006 Focus Group (teachers and parents)
April 2006	Letters will be sent home to Second and Third grade parent explaining our proposed project for the following year (2006-2007) An informative parent night will be held at school A visit to Deland, Florida to observe a gender based school Selected teachers will meet to discuss timeline
May 2006	The four selected teachers will participate in training and book studies best practices related to gender based classrooms. Classrooms will be made based upon parent/teacher recommendations
July 2006	Order necessary material (classroom libraries, materials, equipment)
August 2006 -May 2007	Assistance in setting up the classrooms Implementation of proposed project Evaluation of Kaplan Assessments (all cycles) Weekly vertical Professional Learning Community meetings Continuation of Book Study FCAT analysis

Timeline - Adjusted

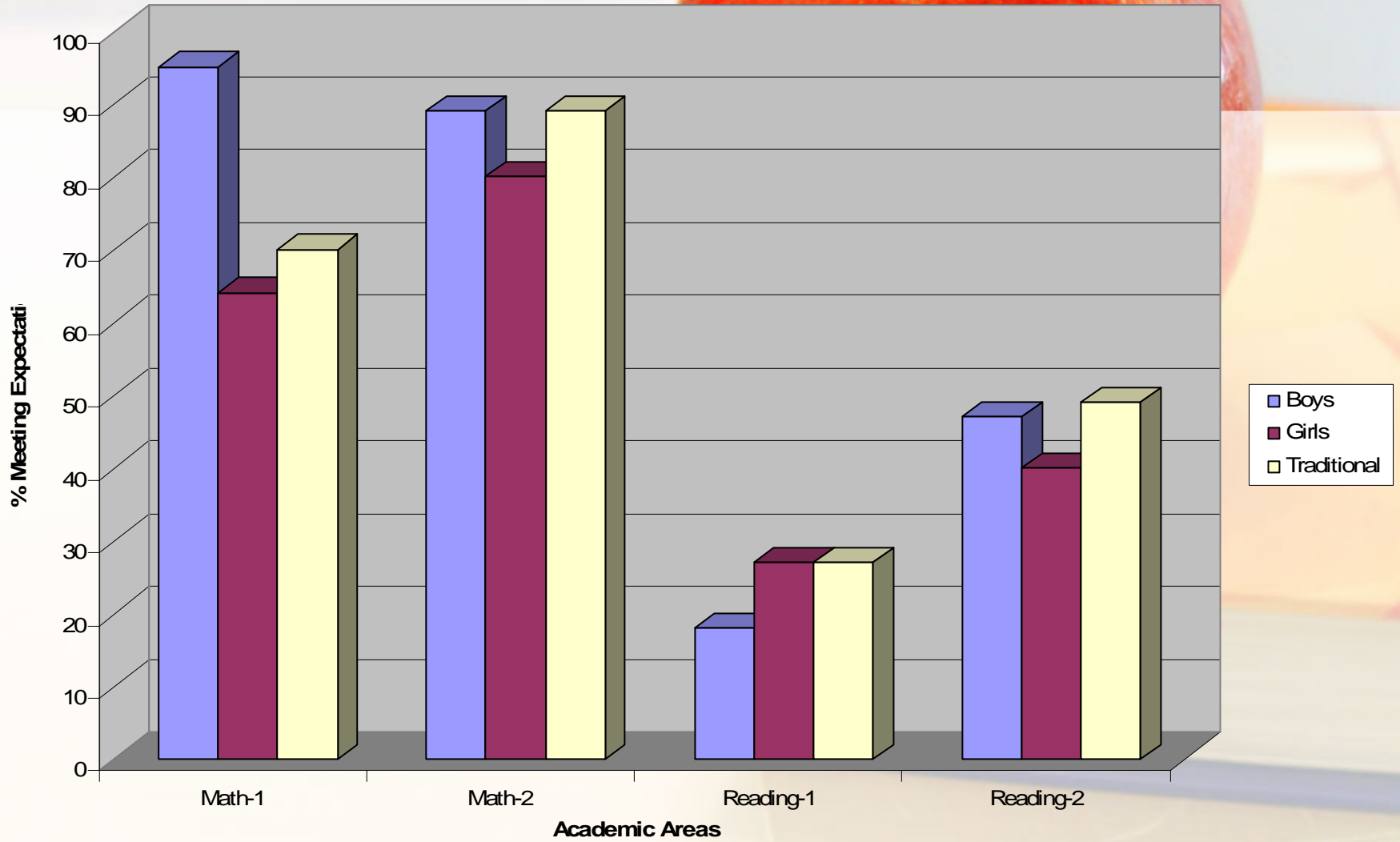
A large, vibrant red apple is the central focus, resting on a stack of several books. The books have various colored covers, including blue, orange, and white. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white, suggesting a bright, airy environment. The apple's surface is highly reflective, showing highlights and shadows that give it a three-dimensional appearance.

- August 2006 Implementation of Gender Classrooms
Formed Partnerships with the University of South Florida, Department of Psychology
- September 2006 First Cycle of assessments from USF
- December 2006 Second Cycle of assessments from USF
- January 2007 First Parent Night Meeting
- April 2007 Third Cycle of assessments from USF
- May 2007
System Review Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test and Pinellas County Assessment results
- June/July 2007 Include First and Fourth grade into the gender project
Present Gender Project to Reading First Conference in Orlando
- August 2007 Begin implementation of new grade levels

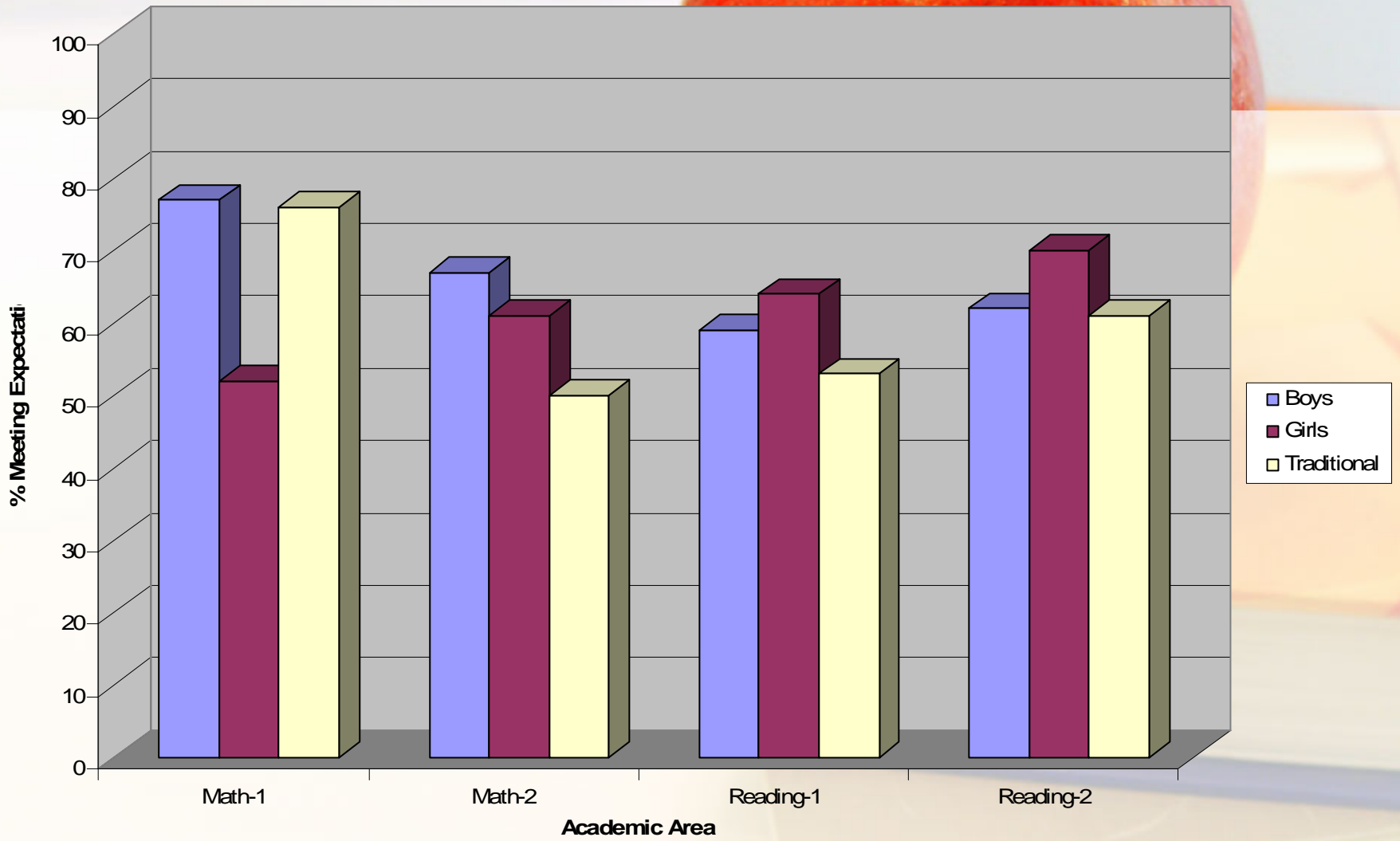
Results of the project thus far...

- Improved academic achievement on Pinellas County Assessments
- Professional Learning Communities have made us aware of gender differences and strategies to increase achievement
- Reduced Discipline
(over a 50% decrease in 3rd grade discipline referrals compared to last year)
- Increased awareness about gender differences in our community (St. Pete Times, Channel 10 news, Baynews 9, Univision and PDS-TV)

% of Students Meeting Expectations in Second Grade



% of Students Meeting Expectations in Third Grade



Closing Remarks

A large, vibrant red apple with a green stem is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide. It sits on a light-colored wooden surface, possibly a table or desk. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light.

- The “Learning Connection” has really exceeded our expectations. We have discovered many new and innovative teaching strategies.
- Even though it is too early to have solid achievement results we are pleased about the indirect results of discipline and affective attitudes.
- The sense of community and understanding from the rest of the staff with regards to the Gender Project. Many teachers have joined our Gender PLC to learn about gender specific strategies to help their students.

A photograph of a bright red apple with a small green stem, resting on a stack of three books. The books have blue and white covers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white. A semi-transparent white horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text.

Questions and Comments?