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AIDB receives 'clean' audit 4th time in 6 years

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The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind received its 2008-2009 audit, which was their fourth clean report in the past six years.

The Department of Public Examiners released the audit last week indicating that no findings or questionable costs were reported for the year.

"There are no other agencies in the state like AIDB," said David Akins, chief financial officer for AIDB. "It presents a different challenge for examiners as they review our multifaceted financial system."

Akins was referring to the financial management system at AIDB that encompasses not only government and business components, but also deals with manufacturing and educational aspects.

Examiners generally spend three to four months doing fieldwork and compliance testing onsite at AIDB, and take another month for review.

"We are committed to meeting the highest standards of accountability in fiscal management, to

be good stewards of the state and federal tax dollars entrusted to us," Akins said. "A no findings audit is a team effort and it starts with leadership. Dr. Terry Graham has made it his goal to manage AIDB utilizing the highest ethical standards. His leadership in these key areas has not gone unnoticed by the Examiners of Public Accounts."

AIDB receives more than 90 percent of its operating budget — about \$43 million for educational programs and services — through an appropriation from the Legislature. That funding has been reduced in the past year by about 18.5 percent in proportion cuts to the Special Education Trust Fund.

The annual budget includes more than \$26 million in sales through Alabama Industries for the Blind.

"Sound financial management is a priority and requires a committed leadership effort by Mr. Akins, the business services staff and the administrative team at AIDB," said President Terry Graham. "I commend Mr. Akins and staff for this stellar accomplishment."