

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Matter of Lord v. Carter

2026 NY Slip Op 02655 · No. 2024-01449; V-8178-20, V-8178-20/20A, V-8192-20 · Decided April 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, Second Department, affirmed an order determining that the parties' child should attend the South Huntington Union Free School District rather than the Hauppauge Union Free School District. The court held that the Family Court's best-interests determination had a sound and substantial basis in the record, including considerations of the child's well-being, educational continuity, and the father's likely continued residence in the district.

OPINION

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PER CURIAM.

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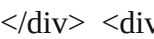
parental access with each parent. However, the parties, who reside in different school districts, were unable to come to an agreement as to where the child should attend school. The Family Court conducted a hearing on the issue of school district enrollment for the child. After the hearing, in an order dated January 10, 2024, the Family Court granted that branch of the father's petition which sought to enroll the child in the South Huntington Union Free School District and denied that branch of the mother's petition which sought to enroll the child in the Hauppauge Union Free School District. The mother appeals. "The court's paramount concern in any custody dispute is to determine, under the totality of the circumstances, what is in the best interests of the child" (*Verfenstein v Verfenstein* , 171 AD3d 841 , 842; see *Eschbach v Eschbach* , 56 NY2d 167, 171). The Family Court's determination in that regard will not be set aside unless it lacks a sound and substantial basis in the record (see *Matter of McCall v McCandlish* , 207 AD3d 725, 726). Contrary to the mother's contention, the Family Court's determination that it was in the best interests of the child to be enrolled in the South Huntington Union Free School District, as opposed to the Hauppauge Union Free School District, is supported by a sound and substantial basis in the record. Among other things, the evidence demonstrated that the child's well-being would be fostered by the diverse, multicultural environment he would enjoy in the South Huntington Union Free School District and that the father was likely to continue to reside in that school district, providing the child with stability and continuity in his education (see *Matter of McCall v McCandlish* , 207 AD3d at 727 ; see also *Verfenstein v Verfenstein* , 171 AD3d at 842). Accordingly, we affirm the order appealed from. BARROS, J.P., IANNACCI, GOLIA and OTTLEY, JJ., concur. ENTER: Darrell M. Joseph Clerk of the Court

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PER CURIAM.

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Appellate Division, Second Department

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DECISION & ORDER

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Accordingly, we affirm the order appealed from.

BARROS, J.P., IANNACCI, GOLIA and OTTLEY, JJ., concur. ENTER:

Darrell M. Joseph
Clerk of the Court

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